

# Fruits Basket™

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The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



5

Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

## Volume 5



Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

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# STORY SO FAR...

**Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in.**

**I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!**







## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues.  
At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac.  
Hates Yuki, leeks and Miso. But mostly Yuki.

## Mabudachi Trio

### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little  
perverted. A popular novelist.



### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't  
cure is his broken heart.

### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama  
queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



# Fruits Basket Characters

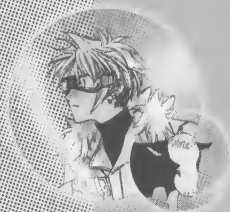


## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks.  
Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.

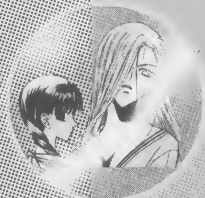


## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black."  
Then you'd better watch out.

## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark man of many secrets.  
Treated with fear and reverence.



## Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves."  
Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

## Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee"  
who looks out for her friends.

Tohru's Best Friends



Chapter 25

# Fruits Basket

TM

Sometimes, when I can't take the tension, I push the pause button.

At those times, my heart...

...kinds of mini-games.

I CHALLENGE YOU TO A GAME OF CARDS!!

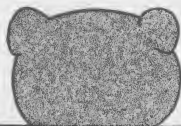
...or...

YOU HAVE X MINUTES TO ESCAPE!!

In RPGs, there's lots of...



C'mon!  
I told you to get used to it.



PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

I did it!!

Once I've won, I keep shaking.



### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

You know how whenever Kyo and Yuki meet, they say "I really hate this guy"? Basically, what they mean is "I hate him more and more every day." It's hard to convey the nuance... (I get a lot of questions about it.) But I think the rhythm works better that way, so I didn't change it.





HUU HUU  
HUU...

THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
SEEN A  
REAL ONE!!

YES!!

IS IT THAT  
UNUSUAL  
FOR YOU TO  
SEE A LAKE?



NOW  
WHERE HAVE  
I HEARD THAT  
BEFORE?

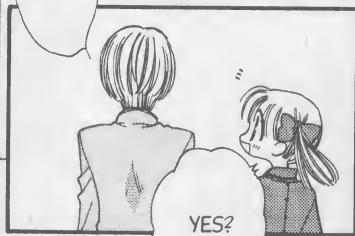
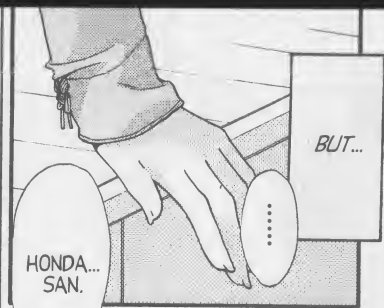
JIEISON...  
JAYSUN?

THERE  
HE GOES  
AGAIN...

A SUMMER  
HOME LIKE THIS  
BY THE LAKE,  
YOU HALF-  
EXPECT JASON  
TO SHOW UP!











...ABOUT  
THE WAY  
YUKI-KUN  
AND KYO-  
KUN ARE  
ACTING.

...BUT  
THERE'S  
SOME-  
THING  
STRANGE...



silence...

IT ALL  
BEGAN  
YESTER-  
DAY...

...ON THE  
NIGHT  
OF THE  
DAY WE  
VISITED  
MOM'S  
GRAVE.



Rattle  
Rattle

THEY  
WERE  
BOTH  
VERY  
QUIET...

...AS IF  
THEY  
HAD  
SOME-  
THING  
HEAVY  
ON THEIR  
MINDS.

UMM  
...?

Step  
Step  
Step



WELLY  
WELLY  
WELL THEN!  
YOU'LL ALL  
COME ALONG  
WITH ME  
TOMORROW,  
WON'T YOU?

I'm  
back.

I'M  
HO-OME!

Ah!

WELCOME  
HOME,  
SHIGURE-  
SAN!

I PROTEST!  
I MAY DRINK  
SAKE, KYO-  
KUN, BUT  
I DO NOT  
GET DRUNK.

HA  
HA  
HA!

ARE YOU  
DRUNK?

...WHY  
ARE YOU  
SUDDENLY  
SAYING  
STUFF THAT  
DOESN'T  
MAKE ANY  
SENSE?

HUH?

WELL,  
GOLDEN WEEK  
STARTS  
TOMORROW,  
RIGHT?

COME ON, COME  
ON! WE COULD  
GO TO A SOHMA  
SUMMER HOME,  
OR STAY AT A  
RESORT!

RIGHT,  
TOHRU-KUN?  
TELL 'EM.

NOT  
THAT IT  
WOULD  
MATTER...  
HE ALWAYS  
ACTS  
DRUNK.

VACATIONS  
LIKE THIS  
DON'T COME  
UP EVERY DAY,  
SO LET'S GO  
SOMEWHERE!

EH  
?!



TRUTH-  
FULLY,  
TOHRU-  
KUN...

...MY HEART  
LONGED TO  
GO WITH  
YOU...



I FELT  
SO LEFT  
OUT...



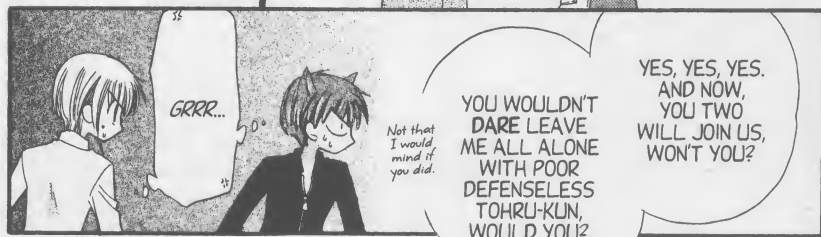
B-  
BUT I'VE  
ALREADY BEEN  
TREATED TO A  
TRIP ONCE THIS  
YEAR, SO...

AH! BUT  
I DIDN'T GO  
WITH YOU  
THAT TIME!



DONT  
MANIPULATE  
HER!!

ALL  
RIGHT,  
THEN.  
LET'S  
GO!!



GRRR...

Not that  
I would  
mind if  
you did.

YOU WOULDN'T  
DARE LEAVE  
ME ALL ALONE  
WITH POOR  
DEFENSELESS  
TOHRU-KUN,  
WOULD YOU?

YES, YES, YES.  
AND NOW,  
YOU TWO  
WILL JOIN US,  
WON'T YOU?

Now they're being  
manipulated.

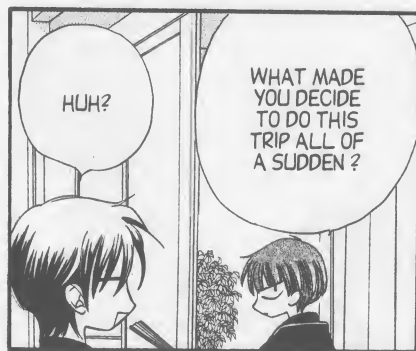
# Fruits Basket 5 Part 1:

Hajimemashite  
and Konnichiwa!  
Takaya here.  
Welcome to  
Furuba Vol. 5.  
Wow, it came up  
fast. I don't see  
how I have the  
time... If you think  
about it, this is my  
17th book, so only  
three more and it'll  
be twenty, won't  
it? (That's right.)  
It just blows me  
away. Now, about  
Kagura, our Cover  
Girl— her name  
sounds perfect  
the way it is, so  
I can't give her  
a nickname. It's  
like, Kagura is  
Kagura. Kagura's  
poses can be girlier  
than any of the  
other characters  
(to put it simply,  
she's a burikko—a  
childlike woman  
(is that term even  
used anymore?)),  
so she makes me  
giggle (how?).  
People who started  
reading my works  
with Furuba proba-  
bly don't know this,  
but Takaya loves to  
draw girls. I really  
like drawing boys,  
too. I'm so happy!  
(laugh).





Left-sided steering wheel (meaning he's driving a Western car—Japanese steering wheels are typically on the right, like England)





...THE TWO OF  
YOU SHOULD  
TAKE TOHRU-  
KUN FOR A  
WALK DOWN TO  
THE LAKE.

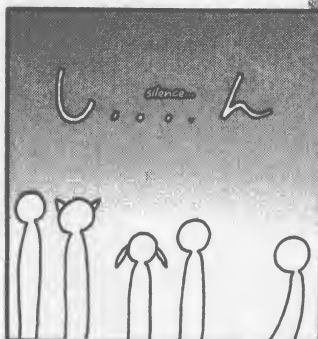
IF YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ANYTHING  
BETTER TO DO  
THAN PICK ON  
PEOPLE...



DEAR, DEAR,  
YOU TWO  
ARE SO  
CYNICAL.

I HONESTLY  
JUST WANTED  
TO GO ON A  
TRIP WITH  
EVERYONE.

IT  
SADDENS  
MY HEART  
THAT YOU  
WOULD  
SUSPECT  
ME SO.



OF  
COURSE!

LET'S  
CALL  
Aaya!!

click



HMPH.  
YOU LEAVE  
ME NO  
CHOICE. TO  
CURE THIS  
GLOOM...

...WE NEED  
SOMEONE  
BRIGHT.

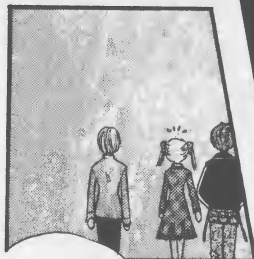


WHAT?  
WHAT'S  
EATING YOU  
TWO?

YOU'RE SO  
GLOOMY.

UM, IT'S  
OKAY, I  
CAN GO BY  
MYSELF.





THEY  
SHOULD  
HAVE JUST  
GONE IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE.

THEY'VE BEEN  
STRANGELY DOWN-  
HEARTED SINCE  
YESTERDAY.

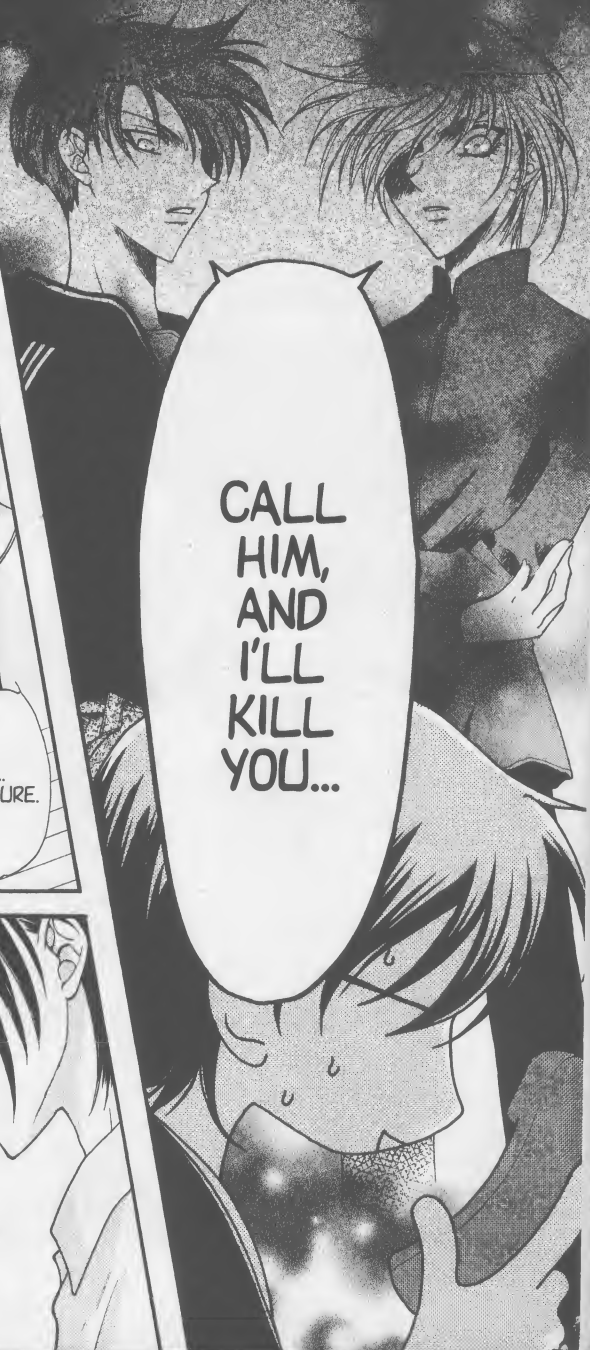
Those  
two.



SHIGURE.



ABOUT WHY  
YOU SUDDENLY  
DECIDED TO  
COME OUT  
HERE...



CALL  
HIM,  
AND  
I'LL  
KILL  
YOU...



flap

I'm going on a  
journey. Please  
don't look for me.

Shigure Sohma ♡

flap

flap

YOU'RE  
BEING MEAN  
TO YOUR  
EDITOR  
AGAIN?

DON'T  
TELL  
ME.



I'm going on a  
journey. Please  
don't look for me.

Shigure Sohma

IT'S OKAY! HE'S  
JUST TEASING  
YOU AGAIN!

DON'T  
DO  
ANY-  
THING  
DRASTIC!!

PLEASE,  
MITCHAN...

MITCHAN!!

MITCHAN,  
JUST COME  
BACK TO THE  
OFFICE!!



\* The kanji in the background means "to like"

WHY DID THEY SUDDENLY GET LIKE THIS?

I DON'T REMEMBER THEM BEING LIKE THIS BEFORE WE VISITED MOM'S GRAVE...

WHAT COULD BE THE CAUSE?

GASP!





I'M  
SORRY!

UM...I'M...



THAT  
MUST  
BE IT!



HUH?

I'LL MAKE  
SURE TO  
NEVER DO  
IT AGAIN.  
SO...

UM, UM,  
UM... IF I DID  
ANYTHING TO  
OFFEND YOU,  
PLEASE  
TELL ME!

I REALLY  
AM SO  
STUPID,  
I DIDN'T  
NOTICE AT  
ALL...

カ  
カ  
カ

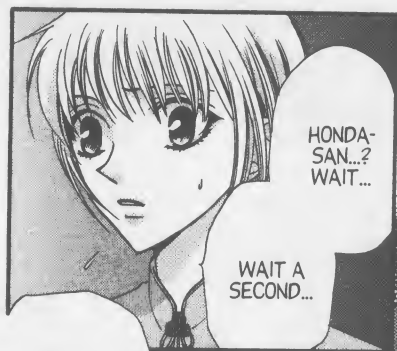
THE ONLY  
POSSIBLE  
EXPLANATION  
IS THAT IT'S  
BECAUSE OF  
ME!!

I MUST HAVE  
SAID OR DONE  
SOMETHING TO  
OFFEND THEM  
WHEN WE WERE  
VISITING MOM'S  
GRAVE!

ONLY, THE TWO  
OF THEM ARE SO  
NICE THAT THEY  
COULDN'T SAY  
ANYTHING...

AH!

カ  
カ  
カ



HONDA-SAN...?  
WAIT...

WAIT A  
SECOND...

WHA...  
WHAT  
THE...?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?



SO PLEASE  
...

GO  
BACK  
TO...

THE  
WAY  
YOU TWO  
ALWAYS  
ARE



KYO-KUN,  
ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?!

DAMMIT!

WHOSE IDEA  
WAS IT TO GO ON  
THIS PATHETIC  
EXCUSE FOR A  
TRAIL?!



KYO-KUN?!

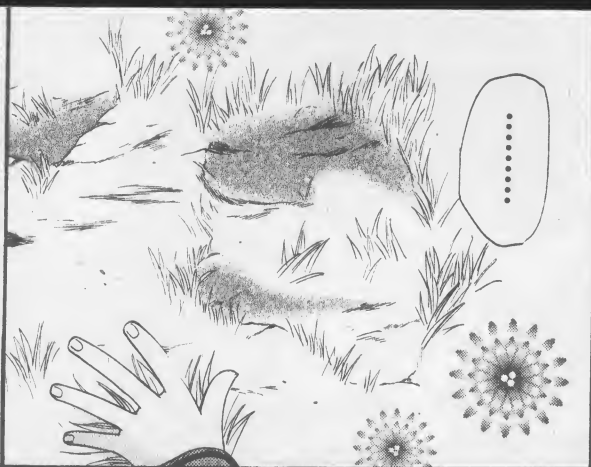


WHOA!



THESE...

THESE FOOT-PRINTS...



.....



IT'S  
JASON!!

JASON  
?!

THEY'RE  
BEAR  
TRACKS...



PLEASE,  
YOU TWO!  
YOU SHOULD  
GET BACK  
TO THE  
HOU...

WH-WH-  
WH-WHAT  
SHOULD  
WE DO!?!  
panic

HONDA-  
SAN!

IT'S UNSAFE!  
IT'S TERRIBLE!  
IT'S DANGEROUS!  
panic







LATER.

YES, YES.  
IT'S OKAY.

THE  
MANUSCRIPT  
IS ALREADY  
DONE. IT'S  
JUST A  
JOKE.

YES, YES.  
UH-HUH,  
YEAH.



Because  
next to  
me, what  
Haa-san  
loves most  
is a good  
book.

WHAT BETTER  
WAY TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE  
OF THIS CARE-  
FREE LEISURE  
TIME THAN BY  
CATCHING UP  
WITH YOUR  
READING?!

No...  
well,  
I do  
like  
reading...

They're mostly Western books.



I SEE...



OH  
NO!

YOU  
CAN'T BE  
BORED,  
HAA-SAN!

I BROUGHT  
AN ASSORT-  
MENT OF  
RECOMMENDED  
BOOKS.

HM?



I HAVE  
HUMBLY PUT  
IN A CALL TO  
MY EDITOR...

OF  
COURSE.  
Don't cry...



I'M  
BORED,  
TOO.

I'm bored!  
I'm bored!  
I'm bored!

Has  
nothing  
to do.





Yes?

SHIGURE

KANA'S WEDDING...  
MAYBE  
THAT'S WHY  
SHIGURE'S  
SO WORRIED  
ABOUT ME.

COME TO  
THINK OF  
IT, AYAME  
CAME BY  
TO SEE ME  
RECENTLY,  
TOO...

NO.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT. IT  
HAS BEEN  
A WHILE...

...SINCE I'VE  
BEEN ABLE  
TO JUST SIT  
DOWN AND  
RELAX WITH  
A BOOK.

Here, I  
made you  
some tea.

You must  
be tired  
from work.

Gulp it  
down.



I'M SO  
SORRY!

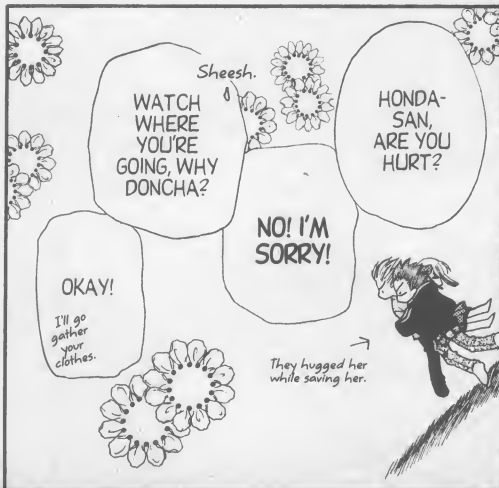
I'M  
SORRY!

I'M  
SORRY!

THEY'RE NOT  
REALLY FINE.

IF SHE'S  
WITH  
THEM, I'M  
SURE IT'S  
FINE.

I WONDER  
IF TOHRU-  
KUN AND  
THE OTHERS  
ARE GETTING  
ALONG?



Sheesh.  
WATCH  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
GOING, WHY  
DONCHA?

HONDA-  
SAN,  
ARE YOU  
HURT?

NO! I'M  
SORRY!

OKAY!

I'll go  
gather  
your  
clothes.

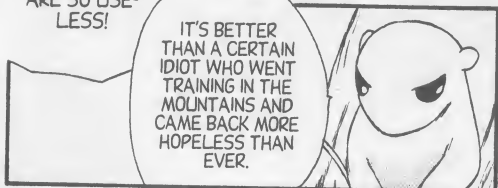
They hugged her  
while saving her.



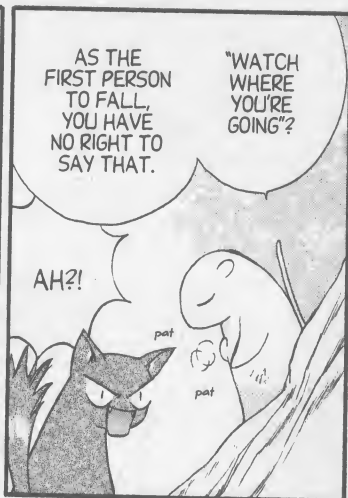
DON'T  
PATRONIZE  
ME!!

THAT'S WHY  
LITTLE BOYS  
WHO STAY  
LOCKED IN  
THEIR ROOMS  
ARE SO USE-  
LESS!

YOU FELL  
DOWN FIRST,  
AND YOU  
KNOW IT!!



IT'S BETTER  
THAN A CERTAIN  
IDIOT WHO WENT  
TRAINING IN THE  
MOUNTAINS AND  
CAME BACK MORE  
HOPELESS THAN  
EVER.



AS THE  
FIRST PERSON  
TO FALL,  
YOU HAVE  
NO RIGHT TO  
SAY THAT.

"WATCH  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
GOING"?

AH?!

pat

pat



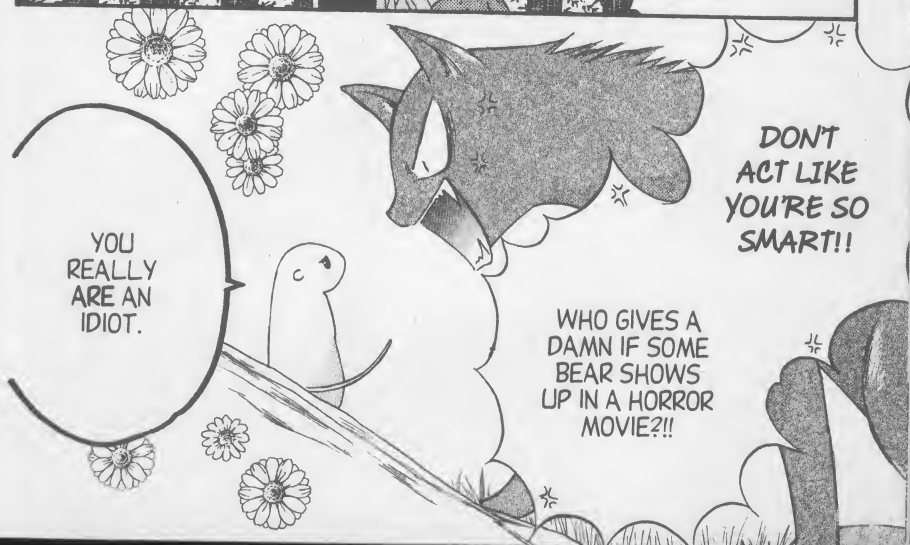
AND JUST SO  
YOU KNOW,  
JASON ISN'T A  
BEAR-HE'S A  
CHARACTER IN A  
HORROR FILM.

AND YOU  
COULD  
STAND TO  
LEARN SOME  
COMMON  
SENSE.

YOU COULD  
STAND TO  
LEARN FROM  
THIS LITTLE  
HIKE!

NOBODY COULD  
MASTER  
EVERYTHING I  
HAD TO LEARN  
UP THERE IN  
JUST FOUR  
MONTHS!  
SOMEONE LIKE  
YOU WOULD BE  
DEAD IN TWO  
DAYS!!

GIVE  
ME A  
BREAK!



YOU  
REALLY  
ARE AN  
IDIOT.

DON'T  
ACT LIKE  
YOU'RE SO  
SMART!!

WHO GIVES A  
DAMN IF SOME  
BEAR SHOWS  
UP IN A HORROR  
MOVIE?!!

C'MON!  
FIGHT LIKE  
A MAN!  
YOU'RE  
CHEATING!!

HOLD  
STILL,  
DAMN IT!!

I'M  
REALLY  
TIRED OF  
HEARING  
THAT  
LINE...

I'LL  
KILL  
YOU!!

IN THESE  
FORMS,  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO'S  
CHEATING.

TODAY WILL  
BE THE DAY  
YOU BREATHE  
YOUR LAST!!

HOW SAD. IT  
LOOKS LIKE YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ANY FRIENDS ON  
THIS MOUNTAIN.

DAMMIT!!

THIS  
IS WHY  
EVERYONE  
HATES  
RATS!

HA  
HA!

DAMN  
LIAR!

LOOK  
AT YOU,  
CALLING  
ALL YOUR  
FRIENDS!!

THEY CAME  
ON THEIR  
OWN. I CAN'T  
HELP IT...

And  
don't  
be so  
calm!!



HONDA-SAN...?

W-WHAT?!

AH!  
OH, I'M  
SORRY!

AH HA  
HA HA  
HA!



HEE  
HEE!

YOU'RE  
FIGHTING...

HEE  
HEE... AH  
HA HA!



AAAH...

...THE TWO  
OF YOU  
WERE BACK  
TO NORMAL  
AGAIN...

...LIKE  
THAT.

...I FELT  
RELIEVED.

YOU WERE  
FIGHTING, BUT  
I LAUGHED...  
THAT WAS  
RUDE OF ME.

B-BUT  
FOR SOME  
REASON...

BEFORE TODAY,  
I COULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT YOUR  
FIGHTING  
EXCEPT  
WATCH AND  
WORRY...

...BUT NOW,  
IT GIVES  
ME SOME  
PEACE OF  
MIND!

WHEN I  
THOUGHT  
THAT, I  
FELT SO  
RELIEVED.

I JUST...

IT'S  
STRANGE,  
ISN'T IT...

IT'S  
WEIRD...

HONDA-SAN...  
YOU WERE  
SAYING SOME-  
THING BEFORE  
WE FELL.

UM...  
WELL...

HONDA-  
SAN...

...



I'M  
SORRY...

BUT I'M  
ALRIGHT  
NOW.



EH?!



ME  
TOO.

...FOR  
WORRYING  
YOU.

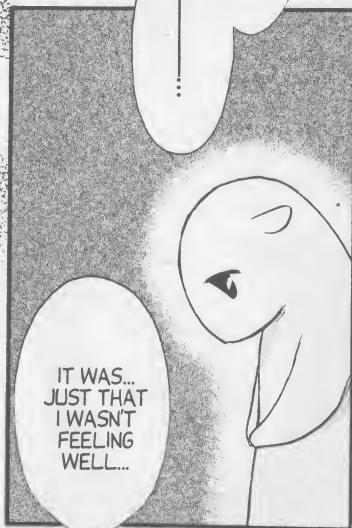
I WASN'T  
ANGRY WITH  
YOU OR  
ANYTHING,  
HONDA-SAN.



IF IT  
LOOKED  
LIKE I WAS  
MAD, IT  
WAS...



IT  
WAS...



IT WAS...  
JUST THAT  
I WASN'T  
FEELING  
WELL...



I JUST  
WASN'T  
REALLY...

...FEELING  
VERY WELL.

I'M NOT  
REALLY  
MAD  
EITHER...

AT  
ANY-  
THING.

I JUST...

IN THE  
HEAD?

NO...!

Aaaaah--!

The two of them  
are changing  
clothes.





EXCEPT  
THAT  
I REALLY  
HATE THIS  
GUY.

NO, WAIT! I'M  
NOT GLAD  
ABOUT THAT,  
IT'S JUST  
YOU HAVEN'T  
CHANGED--  
UM--  
THAT IS.

TH-THAT'S A  
RELIEF. I'M  
GLAD THAT  
YOU WEREN'T  
FEELING  
WELL.

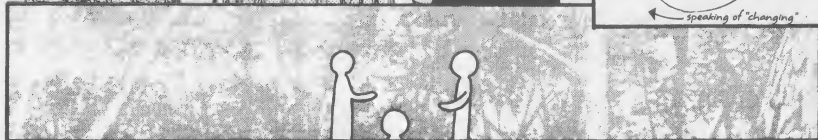
Ah!

CHANGED?

I HAVEN'T  
REALLY  
CHANGED  
AT ALL...

rustle  
rustle

← speaking of "changing" →



HEE  
HEE.



I'M GLAD.



WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?

WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?!

Ahh  
?!

I'LL HATE  
YOU MY  
WHOLE LIFE!  
I HATE YOU  
SO MUCH I  
COULD DIE!!

GO AHEAD.  
IT WOULD  
SAVE ME  
THE EFFORT.



...WHEN  
THEY'RE  
ENERGETIC.

IT REALLY IS  
BETTER...

BUT THINKING  
THAT IT'S GOOD  
FOR THEM TO  
BE FIGHTING...

...IS PRETTY  
STRANGE.

STILL...



\*Book: Summer-colored Sigh. See vol. 2, pg. 18.



YOU  
LIKE?

IT MAKES  
ME SICK.



IT REALLY  
IS FOR THE  
BEST.

DO YOU  
THINK  
MAYBE WE  
SHOULD  
CALL IT A  
DAY?

YEAH.  
WE CAN  
ALWAYS  
GO TO THE  
LAKE...

...  
TOMORROW.

OKAY!



## Chapter 26

Yes!

HERE WE  
ARE, STILL  
AT THE  
SOHMA'S  
SUMMER  
HOUSE.

SOMEHOW...  
I HAVE A  
FEELING  
HONDA-SAN  
IS MORE  
LIKELY TO  
FALL IN.

Ah  
he  
ha  
ha!

I'll keep  
a close  
eye on  
her.

I WON'T  
FALL IN!!

HONDA-  
SAN,  
ARE YOU  
READY  
TO GO?

YES! I'M  
PERFECTLY  
READY!

YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO THE  
LAKE?

DON'T  
FALL IN,  
KYO-KUN.

## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

Hatori is pretty popular, isn't he? I can say this now, but at first he wasn't liked at all. So now that I've felt his popularity has gone up, I feel like it was worth it to work hard on him.



AH!

HATORI-SAN, WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF...

...OKAY...?



ZZZZ



KYO-KUN? EVERYONE NEEDS TO SLEEP.

HATORI SLEEPS?

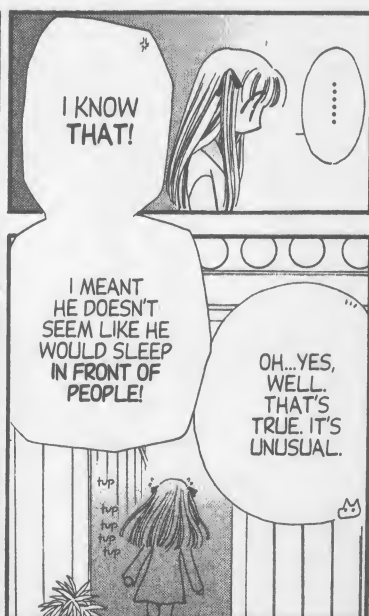
EH?

YES.

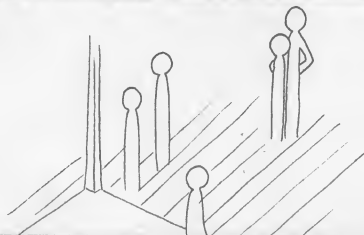
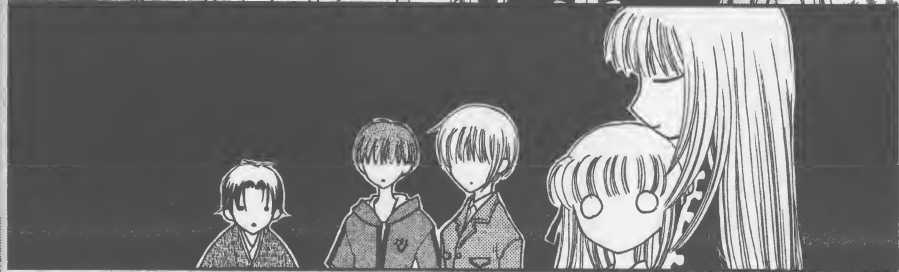
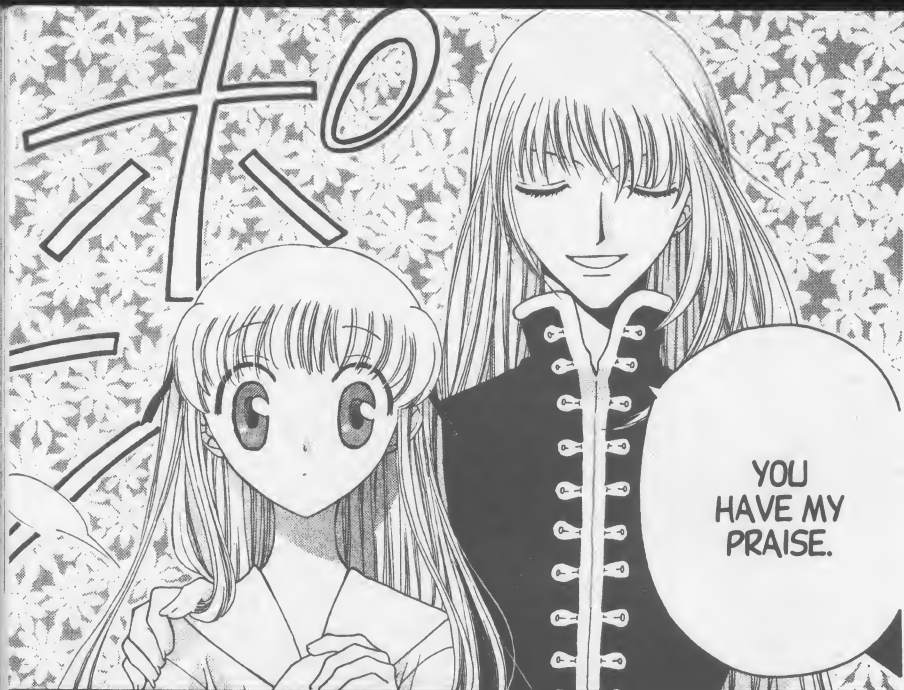
HAA-SAN'S SLEEPING?

OH?

ZZZZ  
ZZZZ  
ZZZZ









HA HA HA HA

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
EVERY-  
ONE?  
YOU'RE  
ALL SO  
STIFF.

ARE YOU  
SICK?!

IT'S BECAUSE  
YOU SHOWED  
UP SUDDENLY!!



Daahh!

YOU'RE  
THE LAST  
PERSON  
I WANNA  
HEAR THAT  
FROM!!

HELLO,  
AYAME-  
SA...

HONDA-  
SAN, HE'S  
DANGEROUS.  
DON'T GO  
NEAR HIM.

DON'T  
YOU LEARN  
ANYTHING?!  
WHERE THE  
HELL DID YOU  
MATERIALIZE  
FROM?!

I CAME  
IN THROUGH  
THE DOOR,  
OBVIOUSLY.

KYONKICHI,  
YOU REALLY  
ARE SUCH A  
SIMPLETON.



A CERTAIN...  
INDIVIDUAL  
...?

**GASP!**

I KNOW  
YOU'RE ALL  
OVERWHELMED  
WITH TEARS  
OF GRATITUDE  
UPON MEETING  
ME AGAIN, BUT  
PLEASE CALM  
DOWN A LITTLE.

I CAME HERE  
WITH THE  
HELP OF  
A CERTAIN  
INDIVIDUAL.

GENTLE-  
MEN!

JUST  
A... NO!

I SWEAR,  
IT WASN'T  
ME!!

EH?!

AAYA...  
I CAN  
ALWAYS  
COUNT ON  
YOU TO  
MAKE MY  
HEART  
SOAR!

*Je  
t'aime,  
mon  
amour,  
bon  
voyage!*

NO NEED  
TO FEAR,  
GURE-SAN!

WELL?!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
DID YOU  
COME  
HERE FOR  
?!

*Annyeong  
hashimundae!*

EVEN IF THE  
ENTIRE WORLD  
TURNS AGAINST  
YOU, I WILL  
FOREVER BE ON  
YOUR SIDE!



OH! YOU  
MIGHT NOT  
KNOW.

Now,  
now.  
YOU NEED TO  
CALM DOWN.  
WHAT WAS IT  
KINPACHI-  
SENSEI SAID?

KINPACHI-  
SENSEI  
SAID...

... "YOU  
CAN'T HAVE  
'HITO', ^ THE  
CHARACTER  
THAT MEANS  
'PERSON'...

...WITHOUT  
TWO LINES  
SUPPORTING  
EACH OTHER."

THAT  
SOUNDS  
EXCITING,  
AAYA, BUT  
YOU'RE  
COMPLETELY  
OFF THE  
MARK.

IT'S FROM  
A SCHOOL  
DRAMA ABOUT  
RAZZLE-DAZZLE  
YOUTH BEING  
LIFTED FROM  
IGNORANCE  
LIKE FISH FROM  
A DRIED-UP  
STREAM.



...HOW?

...AND  
THAT IS  
RELEVANT  
...

...?  
?

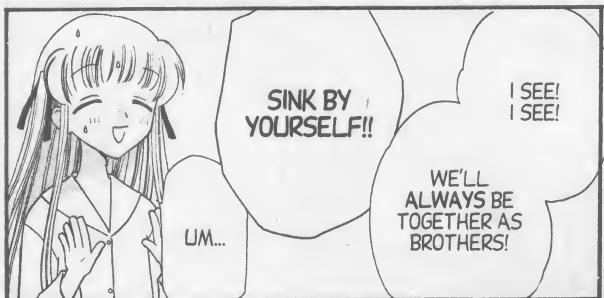
YOU JUST  
WANTED TO  
SAY IT?!

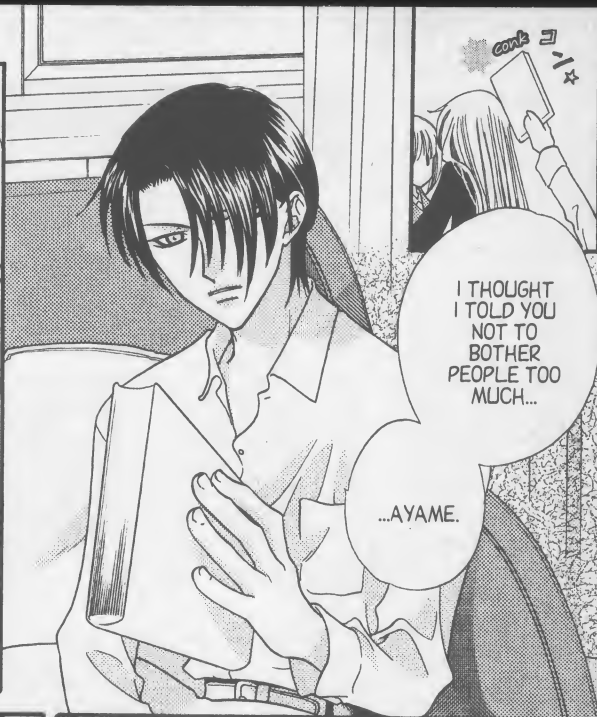


YES. IT IS A  
GOOD LINE,  
ISN'T IT?

# Fruits Basket 5 Part 2:

I talk about games a lot in this column, but when I do, I get a lot of letters that say, "I don't follow video games, so I don't understand. Talk about something else." But haven't more girls been playing video games lately? I wonder. I wonder... It's the same feeling as turning on the TV, so I feel like maybe it's a part of my life, like what else would I do but playing video games? In other words, when I'm not working, all I would do is play video games. So I didn't have anything to talk about aside from work or video games. (I don't feel sad at all saying that.) I don't even know how many PS memory cards I have anymore.





HE'S  
INSANE!!

IN FRONT  
OF HATORI,  
HE JUST  
ANSWERS  
THE  
QUESTION!!

UPON GOING TO THE MAIN  
HOUSE AND HEARING FROM A MAID  
(AGE 53) THAT TORI-SAN WAS WITH  
EVERYONE AT A SUMMER HOME,  
I THOUGHT-- IN THAT CASE--  
I WANTED TO JOIN YOU ALL, AND  
LEFT IMMEDIATELY. OF COURSE,  
I CAME BY CAR, COMFORTABLY  
AND INVINCIBLY.

OH?

REALLY?

AH...

IN THAT  
CASE, YOU  
MUST  
GO RIGHT  
AWAY.

IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
ESCORT A  
LADY, YOU  
HAVE TO BE  
MORE CHIC  
ABOUT IT.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHY YOU'RE  
STILL LAZING  
ABOUT IN HERE.

YUKI,  
KYO...

WEREN'T YOU  
TWO GOING TO  
TAKE HONDA-  
KUN TO THE  
LAKE TODAY?



AAYA,  
I THOUGHT  
FOR SURE  
YOU'D WANT  
TO FOLLOW  
THEM.

BESIDES, IT'S  
BEEN A LONG  
TIME SINCE THE  
THREE OF US  
HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO SPEND TIME  
TOGETHER.

WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING,  
GURE-SAN?  
I WOULD  
NEVER BE SO  
BOORISH.

THE NIGHT  
IS LONG...  
I WON'T LET  
YOU SLEEP  
TONIGHT...

...GURE-  
SAN.

I'M HONORED...  
THAT TONIGHT  
I CAN SHARE THE  
SAME DREAM  
AS YOU...

...AAYA.

*Decided this 7 seconds ago.*

IT'S  
YOUR  
FAULT!

AH!

UH,  
UH, UM,  
WELL,  
THAT IS...

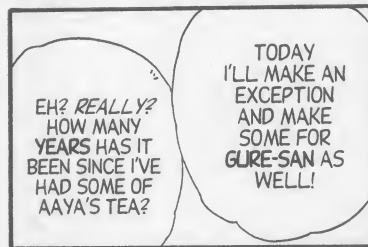
WE'LL BE  
GOING TO  
THE LAKE  
NOW.

YES...



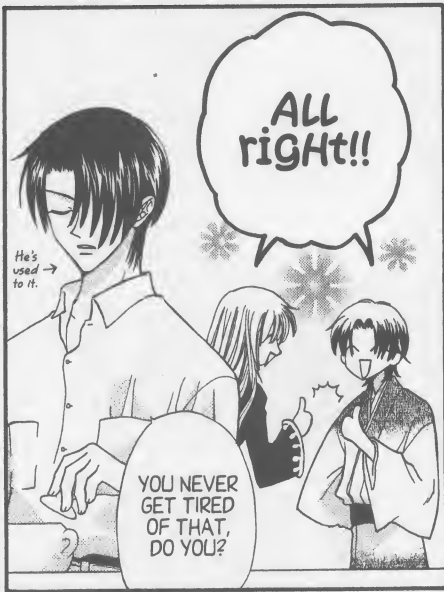
OH!  
TORI-SAN!

IF YOU  
NEED ANY  
TEA, I WILL  
OF COURSE  
MAKE SOME  
FOR YOU!



EH? REALLY?  
HOW MANY  
YEARS HAS IT  
BEEN SINCE I'VE  
HAD SOME OF  
AAYA'S TEA?

TODAY  
I'LL MAKE AN  
EXCEPTION  
AND MAKE  
SOME FOR  
GURE-SAN AS  
WELL!



ALL  
right!!

He's  
used →  
to it.

YOU NEVER  
GET TIRED  
OF THAT,  
DO YOU?



NON, NON!  
EVEN IF  
I MADE SOME  
FOR YUKI, HE  
WOULDN'T  
DRINK IT.

IS THE  
OTHER ONE  
YUKI-KUN?

WELL, OF  
COURSE  
ONE OF  
THEM IS  
AKITO-  
SAN.

Sad,  
isn't it?



Of  
course!

BE  
GRATEFUL!

ASIDE FROM  
TORI-SAN,  
THERE ARE  
ONLY TWO  
PEOPLE...

...WHO CAN  
DRINK MY  
TEA!



SOMEHOW,  
I FEEL VERY  
REFRESHED.

THAT  
GUY...




HAAAHH...



どよん

DOES HE  
PLAN TO  
STAY THE  
NIGHT?




I HATE THAT...  
I HATE IT WHEN  
PEOPLE ARE SO  
DEPENDENT ON  
OTHERS!

IF I  
COULD, DON'T  
YOU THINK I  
WOULD HAVE  
ALREADY?



HE'S YOUR  
BROTHER.

DO  
SOMETHING.



THAT'S NONE  
OF YOUR  
BUSINESS!

DON'T TALK  
TO ME LIKE  
YOU KNOW  
EVERYTHING!

WHO'S BEING  
DEPENDENT  
ON OTHERS,  
LOSER?

YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO'S  
RELYING ON  
SHIGURE.

I'M NOT  
TALKING TO  
YOU 'CAUSE  
I WANT TO!!

YOU'RE HANGING  
AROUND IN FRONT  
OF ME, SO I'M  
GONNA SEE YOU  
WHETHER I LIKE  
IT OR NOT!!

After being  
so happy/  
yesterday, she  
can't bring  
herself to stop  
them. →

WHY DO I HAVE  
TO SEE THE  
STUPID LAKE  
WITH YOU,  
ANYWAY?!

Oh  
yeah  
?!

THEN YOU  
SHOULD JUST  
LEAVE!

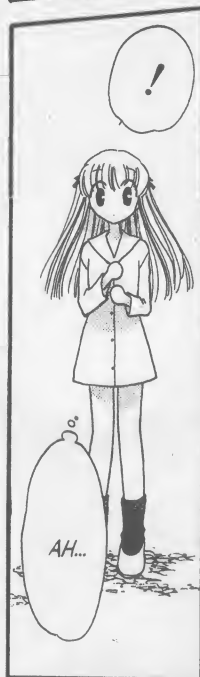
I COMPLETELY  
AGREE. SEEING  
THE LAKE  
WITH YOU  
IS ENDLESS  
TORTURE!

I'D  
LOVE TO  
LEAVE!!

Keh!

THIS IS STUPID!  
I WISH WE  
NEVER CA--!

gasp!





CAN WE WALK  
AROUND THE  
EDGE OF THE  
LAKE?!

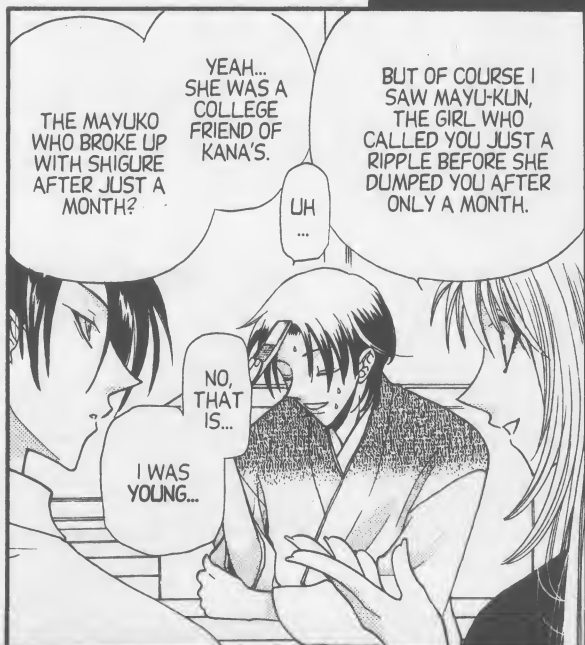
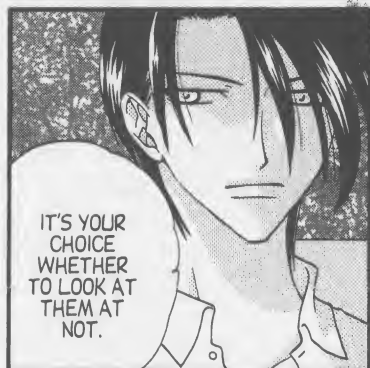
...!  
GUESS.

...  
!  
ISN'T IT  
PRETTY?!!

OKAY.

HERE.









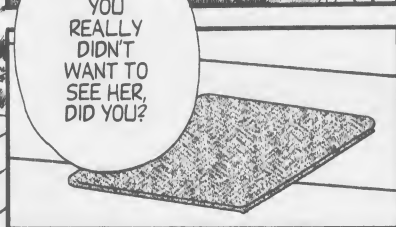
I WAS  
AFRAID  
SHE MIGHT  
HAVE  
FLASH-  
BACKS.

KANA'S  
MEMORIES  
AREN'T BURIED  
VERY DEEP.

IF SHE  
HAPPENED TO  
REMEMBER  
SOMETHING, IT  
WOULD BE...  
PROBLEMATIC.



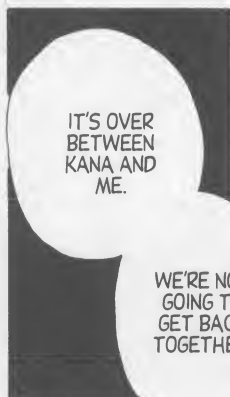
OH, BUT  
HAA-SAN, YOU  
ENDED UP NOT  
GOING TO THE  
CEREMONY,  
RIGHT?



YOU  
REALLY  
DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
SEE HER,  
DID YOU?



PROBLEMATIC?



IT'S OVER  
BETWEEN  
KANA AND  
ME.

WE'RE NOT  
GOING TO  
GET BACK  
TOGETHER.



How  
dramatic!

YES, YES! AND  
YOU COULD STEAL  
HER FROM THE GROOM,  
JUST LIKE IN *THE*  
GRADUATE!

Look,  
you...

BUT IF SHE  
WERE TO  
REMEMBER  
THOSE GOOD  
OL' DAYS...

...YOU MIGHT  
BE ABLE TO  
GET ALL  
LOVEY-DOVEY  
AGAIN!

EVEN IF  
WE WERE  
TOGETHER  
...

...I WOULD  
ONLY MISS  
HER...

WE CAN'T GO  
BACK TO THE  
WAY THINGS  
WERE.

THE FEELINGS OF  
GUILT AND SHAME  
WON'T DISAPPEAR.

THEY'D SPREAD  
LIKE A CANCER...

...EATING  
AWAY AT  
THE LIGHT  
AND THE  
JOY THAT  
KANATO ONCE  
BROUGHT ME.

I...



NOW,  
ALL  
I CAN  
DO...

...IS  
PRAY.

...I DON'T THINK  
I WANT HER  
NEAR ME.

AND  
I DON'T  
PLAN TO  
SEE HER.

IT WOULD  
ONLY END  
IN SADNESS  
FOR HER...  
AND FOR ME.

BE HAPPY,  
KANA.

I...  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK...

...THAT THE  
LOVE HAS  
DISAPPEARED  
...

...BUT...



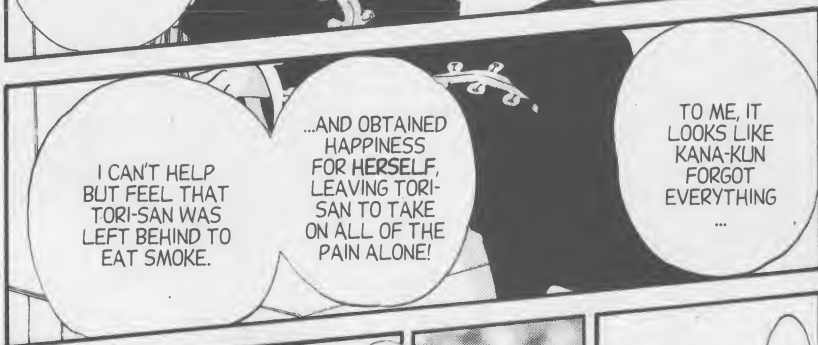


IT'S NOT  
FAIR OF  
KANA-KUN!

I'M A  
TORI-SAN  
SUPPORTER,  
SO I FULLY  
ADMIT THAT  
I'M BIASED...

...BUT  
I WON'T  
AGREE WITH  
THAT.

I WON'T  
AGREE WITH  
THAT.



I CAN'T HELP  
BUT FEEL THAT  
TORI-SAN WAS  
LEFT BEHIND TO  
EAT SMOKE.

...AND OBTAINED  
HAPPINESS  
FOR HERSELF,  
LEAVING TORI-  
SAN TO TAKE  
ON ALL OF THE  
PAIN ALONE!

TO ME, IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
KANA-KUN  
FORGOT  
EVERYTHING  
...



...NOT  
HOW I  
FEEL.

THAT'S...



REALLY  
...?



HE DOES  
HAVE A POINT.  
YOU ALWAYS  
LET PEOPLE  
PUSH THEIR  
TROUBLES  
ONTO YOU.

Come, come,  
Gure-san.  
Feel free to  
chime in.

TORI-SAN,  
YOU'RE  
TOO KIND!

THESE TWO  
SHOULD  
KNOW...

I REALIZE  
KINDNESS IS ONE  
OF YOUR BEST  
FEATURES, BUT  
SERIOUSLY, YOU GO  
WAY OVERBOARD.  
THAT'S WHY YOU  
ALWAYS KEEP  
SUFFERING  
NEEDLESSLY.

Chief suppliers of Hatori's trouble.



I WON'T  
TELL YOU  
TO GET BACK  
TOGETHER  
WITH KANA-  
KUN.

INSTEAD,  
PLEASE  
ALLOW ME  
TO SPEAK  
FRANKLY.

...I WANT  
YOU TO BE  
TWO THOUSAND  
TIMES HAPPIER  
...

...THAN YOU  
WOULD BE  
WITH KANA-  
KUN!

YOU KNOW,  
TORI-SAN, I...



IF ONLY...

EH?  
REALLY?

...YOU WOULD  
SHOW YUKI  
THAT KIND OF  
CONVICTION.



BUT,  
WELL...

HM...

ANYWAY...



Because  
one  
thousand  
times isn't  
enough!

Two  
thousand?  
Why two  
thousand?

NEXT  
TIME...

A  
WOMAN  
WHO...

...WHEN  
YOU MEET A  
NEW WOMAN,  
I HOPE THAT  
SHE IS  
SOMEONE  
...

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE TO STAY  
DISTANT FROM,  
EVEN WHEN  
YOU'RE WITH  
HER.



...WHEN I  
THINK OF  
THE PAIN WE  
CAN CAUSE  
SOMEONE WE  
LOVE...

...I FEEL  
THAT THE  
MEMORIES  
OF MY TIME  
WITH KANA  
ARE ENOUGH.

I THINK  
I CAN  
GET BY...

...WITHOUT  
ANYONE ELSE.

Ah!

THEY'RE  
BACK.

FOR LIS,  
THE  
CURSED  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC...

...YOU CAN  
BE TRULY  
HAPPY  
WITH.

I'M A  
NOVELIST. A  
NOVELIST.

GOOD JOB,  
Gure-san!  
  
SPOKEN  
LIKE A TRUE  
POET.

No,  
no...

THAT'S  
A VERY  
RECKLESS  
WISH.

A NEW  
WOMAN  
...



ALL THAT I  
CAN DO NOW...

...IS WATCH  
OVER  
THEM...



SO THAT THEY  
DON'T LOSE  
THE WILL...

...DON'T MAKE  
THE SAME  
MISTAKES.

...SO  
THAT THEY...



HEY!

BY THE WAY,  
YUKI...

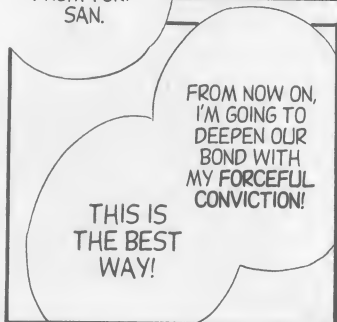
I JUST  
RECEIVED  
SOME ADVICE  
FROM TORI-  
SAN.



...TO  
SMILE.

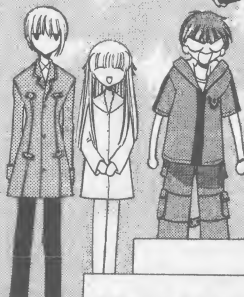
MY, MY.  
WELCOME  
BACK, YUKI!

AND YOU'RE  
WITH YOUR  
LITTLE  
FRIENDS!



FROM NOW ON,  
I'M GOING TO  
DEEPEN OUR  
BOND WITH  
MY FORCEFUL  
CONVICTION!

THIS IS  
THE BEST  
WAY!



WHORE YOU  
CALLING HIS  
FRIEND?!



YUKI!!

BASED ON THIS  
INDISPUTABLE  
FACT, I WILL  
MAKE THIS  
DECLARATION!



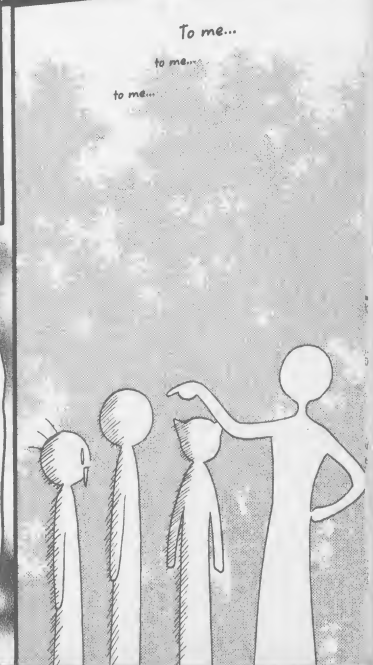
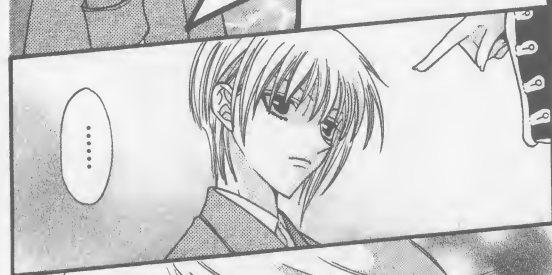
I MEAN--!! YUKI  
IS MY YOUNGER  
BROTHER, AND  
I AM YUKI'S  
OLDER BROTHER!



...THE BEST  
WAY IS  
FOR HIM TO  
GIVE UP.

FORCEFUL...  
CONVICTION?

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?





Ah  
ha  
ha!

GREAT  
TEACHER  
MAYUKO,  
YOU'RE  
WORKING ON  
YOUR DAY  
OFF?

CALL ME  
GREAT  
TEACHER  
MAYUKO!

Ehhh?

YUP.  
AND IT  
SUCKS.

YOU  
HERE  
FOR A  
CLUB?

席簿

YUP!

DON'T BE SO  
FAMILIAR WITH  
A TEACHER!

HEY!

MAYBE  
NEXT  
TIME...

...YOU'LL  
BE ABLE  
TO MEET  
HER.



## Chapter 27



### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

I feel like it's high time I introduce Kisa... Actually, now that I think of it, it's more like Yuki somehow summoned her. The way I see it, the hardships in our lives never disappear completely. There must be an exit waiting for us somewhere at the end. ...Well...I want to think that. Hmm, I wonder.





HAVING DINNER  
TOGETHER AND  
TALKING WITH  
EVERYONE  
LIKE THAT...

BUT  
SPENDING  
TIME WITH  
EVERYONE  
WAS HALF  
THE FUN!

YEAH...

GOLDEN  
WEEK IS  
ALREADY  
OVER.

I'M GOING TO  
MISS THAT  
SUMMER HOME.

WELL,  
I CAN'T  
SAY I'LL  
MISS THE  
NOISE.

*Making hand-  
rolled sushi*



IT WAS  
SO MUCH  
FUN!

I WAS SAD  
WHEN IT  
WAS TIME  
TO GO  
HOME.



BUT DON'T  
FORGET THAT  
AS SOON AS  
THE BREAK IS  
OVER, WE HAVE  
MIDTERMS.

s i g h...



...



...WE  
HAVE THE  
STUDENT  
BODY  
ELECTIONS!

AH!

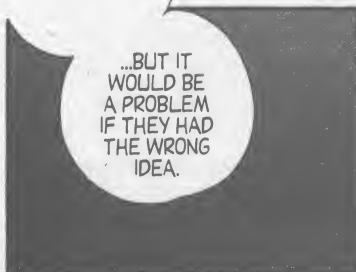
BUT  
BEFORE  
THAT...



I DON'T  
KNOW...

...WHAT  
HE...

...OR ANYONE  
ELSE IS  
EXPECTING...



...BUT IT  
WOULD BE  
A PROBLEM  
IF THEY HAD  
THE WRONG  
IDEA.

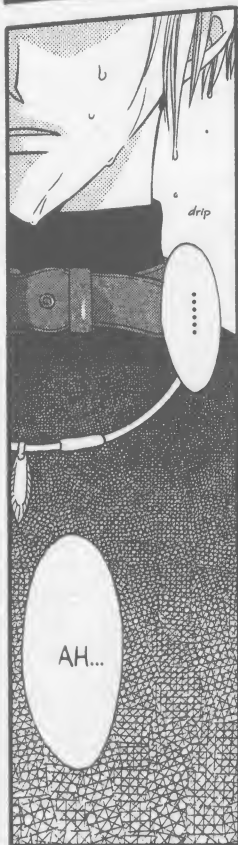


I HEAR THAT  
STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT TAKEI-  
SAN REALLY  
WANTS YOU TO BE  
HIS SUCCESSOR...  
BUT...

s i g h...

...YOU DON'T  
REALLY  
WANT TO  
DO YOU,  
YUKI-KUN?

NO...





!!

HATSUHARU-  
SAN?!

HARU...

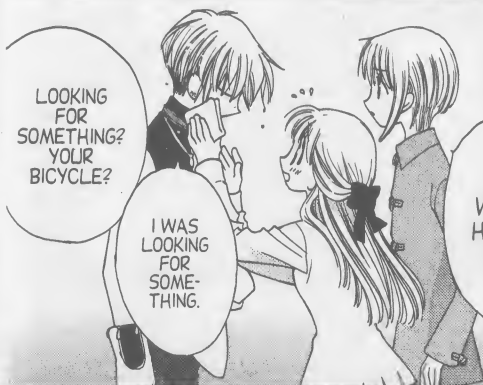
IF IT  
ISN'T  
YUKI.



THAT'S MY  
LINE.

だんだん

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
OUT HERE IN  
THE RAIN?

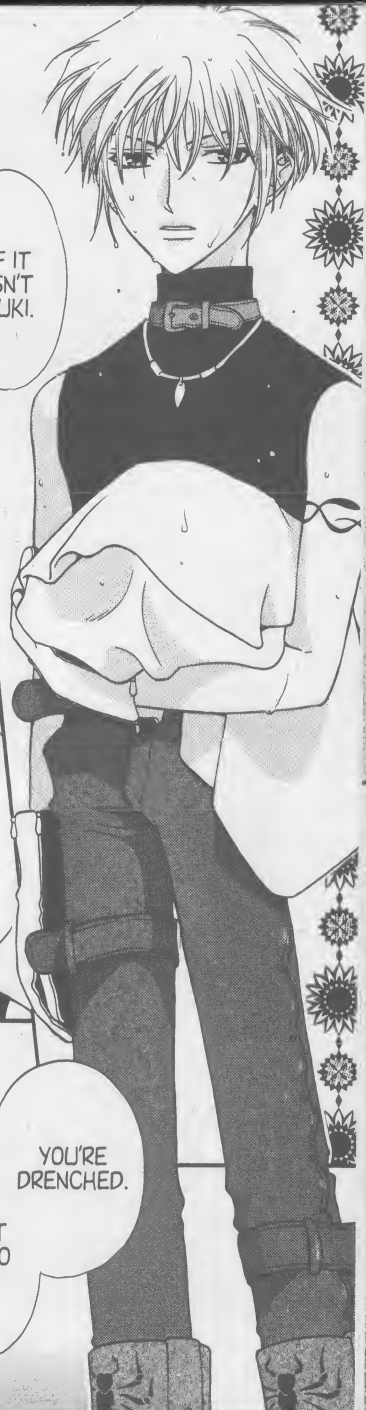


LOOKING  
FOR  
SOMETHING?  
YOUR  
BICYCLE?

I WAS  
LOOKING  
FOR  
SOME-  
THING.

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAPPEN TO  
BE LOST  
AGAIN?

YOU'RE  
DRENCHED.





I WAS  
LOOKING...

...FOR  
HER.

I THOUGHT  
SHE'D SAY  
THAT...

What  
a cute  
Kitty!!



!



Eh?!

...YOU MEAN  
THE TIGER  
FROM THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC, SO...

EH? EH? BUT  
WHEN YOU SAY  
TIGER, YOU  
MEAN...

HONDA-  
SAN...  
THIS IS A  
TIGER.

EH?

KISA  
SOHMA.  
THE TIGER.

WATCH  
OUT. WHEN  
SHE BITES,  
IT HURTS.

P-PLEASED  
TO MEET YOU!  
UM...  
I'M TOHRU  
HON--

DA...

chomp





AH...

HONDA-SAN!!

KISA,  
APOLOGIZE  
TO HER.

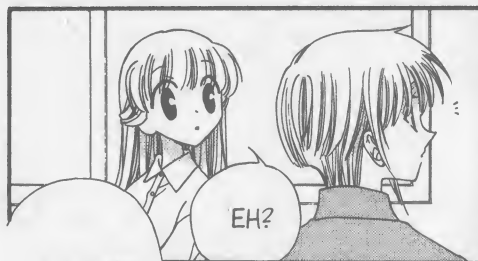
Y- YES...  
SH-SH-  
SH-SHE  
STARTLED  
ME...

THAT'S  
QUITE A BITE  
YOU'VE GOT  
THERE.

GOODNESS.

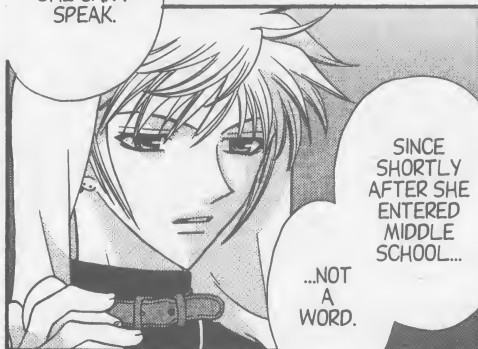
KISA!





EH?

SHE CAN'T  
SPEAK.



SINCE  
SHORTLY  
AFTER SHE  
ENTERED  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL...

...NOT  
A  
WORD.



YUKI-  
KUN

UM, I'M FINE,  
SO...

Ah!

...SATCHAN  
DOESN'T  
SPEAK.



ACCORDING  
TO TORI-  
NII...\*



...THAT'S SEALED  
HER ABILITY TO  
SPEAK.

...SHE HAS AN  
EMOTIONAL  
PROBLEM...

\*Tori-nii: Hatori. "nii" is short for "older brother."

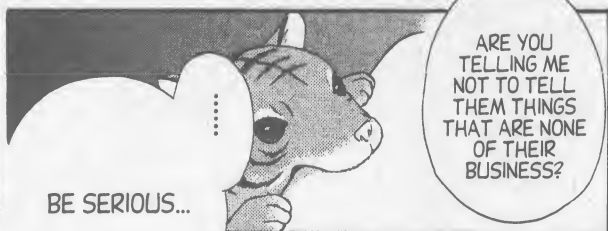




# Fruits Basket 5 Part 3:

I played Tokimeki Memorial 2. I wanted... a limited edition one... Although I'm ashamed to admit it. (Oops! I just admitted it!) Instead of Takaya-kun, I got Hikari-chan to call me Natsuki-kun. But no matter what happened, the pronunciation was weird, so in the middle I changed it to my real name. I thought, "Whoa, she said my name!" (laugh). Leave it to me to win goldfish for you!! (laugh) (That's a lie. Truth be told, I suck at it.) As for Kotoko-chan, for no reason, I face the screen and tell her I'm sorry. And I sing along with the opening. (Big Mistake.) My voice is low and I have a small range, so I'm no good at singing. I end up in falsetto. Macky's songs are so high I can't sing them very well either. Basically, I'm tone-deaf.

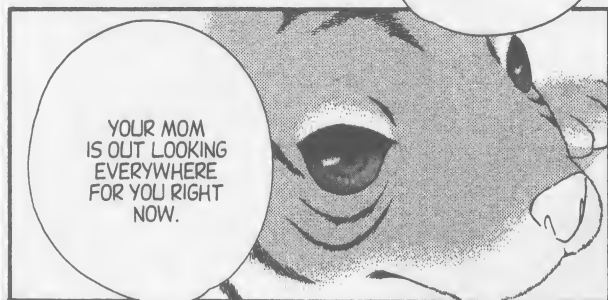
Editor's note: Tokimeki Memorial (TokiMemo for short) is a super-popular Japanese dating simulator series. TokiMemo 2 for the Playstation featured an "Emotional Voice System" that allowed two of the girls to actually call out the player's name. TokiMemo 2 has a sequel which incorporates Dance Dance Revolution!



ARE YOU  
TELLING ME  
NOT TO TELL  
THEM THINGS  
THAT ARE NONE  
OF THEIR  
BUSINESS?



DO YOU  
REALIZE HOW  
MUCH WE'VE  
WORRIED OVER  
YOU?



YOUR MOM  
IS OUT LOOKING  
EVERYWHERE  
FOR YOU RIGHT  
NOW.



Kisa-san is missing... and the blood!

AaaaaaH! HATSUKARU-san, you're bleeding!

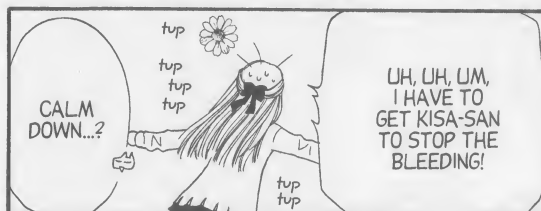
WHAT SHOULD ...!?

WH-

CALM DOWN, TOHRU-KUN.



AH!



CALM DOWN...?

tup  
tup  
tup

UH, UH, UM, I HAVE TO GET KISA-SAN TO STOP THE BLEEDING!



MM-MM... I'M JUST A LITTLE ANNOYED BECAUSE IT HURTS.

YOU'RE TOO CALM, SENSEI.

...THAT KISA'S HOPELESS.

HAA-KUN... YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO TURN INTO BLACK, DID YOU?

NO!!

ARE YOU  
JEALOUS?

YOU SEEM  
AWFULLY  
WORRIED  
ABOUT HER.

ARE THE  
TWO OF  
YOU SUCH  
GOOD  
FRIENDS?

...HUH?

...OF THE  
TIME YOU  
WOULDN'T  
SPEAK,  
YUKI.

.....  
I JUST  
CAN'T  
LEAVE  
HER  
ALONE.

SHE  
REMINDS  
ME...

YOU'RE  
SO  
COLD.

ISN'T  
HE?

THESE  
PEOPLE...



SHUT  
UP!

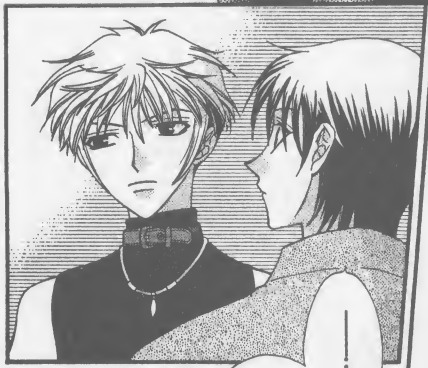
.....

YOU  
WOULD  
CURL  
UP IN A  
BALL...

...AND BE  
COMPLETELY  
SILENT.

IT WAS ALL  
YOU COULD DO  
TO PROTECT  
YOURSELF.

THAT'S  
WHAT SHE  
REMINDS  
ME OF.



—  
.....

COME NOW. IS  
THAT REALLY  
ANYTHING TO  
GET WORKED  
UP ABOUT?

YES,  
IT IS.





ARE YOU  
EMBARRASSED?

.....



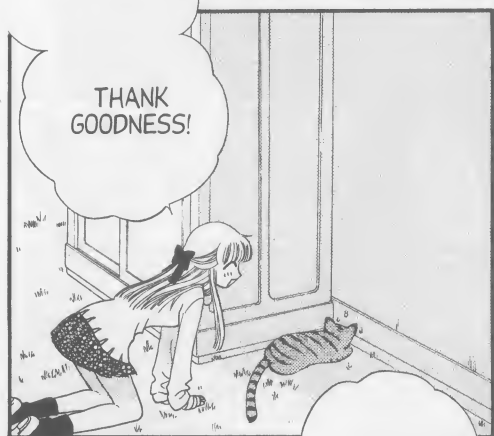
Ho  
ho  
ho

SUCH  
IS MY  
NATURE.

YOU  
KNOW,  
SENSEI...

...YOU HAVE  
A REALLY  
BAD HABIT OF  
SAYING THINGS  
THAT ARE LIKE  
POURING OIL  
ONTO A FIRE.

.....



IT REALLY  
DOESN'T HURT  
AT ALL, NOT A  
BIT, YES, BUT,  
WELL, UM...

...DOESN'T  
HURT, IT  
DOESN'T...  
HURT...

IT--!

IT HURTS  
A LITTLE,  
BUT NOT  
REALLY...

...



?!  
surprise



WON'T YOU  
COME INSIDE  
FOR NOW...

...KISA-SAN?

KISA...?

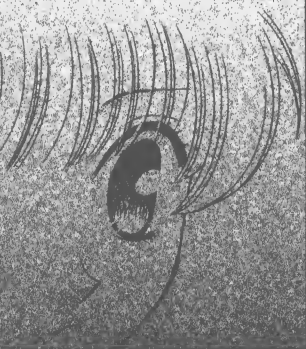


HEY...

...OR  
REJECT  
THEM.

...USUALLY  
EITHER BECOME  
EXTREMELY  
OVER-  
PROTECTIVE  
OF THEM...

THE MOTHERS  
OF CHILDREN  
POSSESSED  
BY VENGEFUL  
SPIRITS...



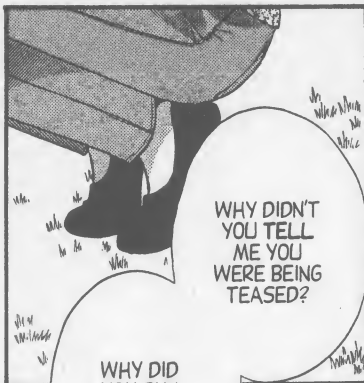
I  
DON'T...

...WANT  
ANY  
MORE OF  
THIS...



I'M...

...SICK  
OF  
THIS...



WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL  
ME YOU  
WERE BEING  
TEASED?

WHY DID  
YOU RUN  
AWAY?



WHY WON'T  
YOU SAY  
ANYTHING?



BUT AFTER  
A WHILE, MY  
MOM FOUND  
OUT.

AND  
THEN...

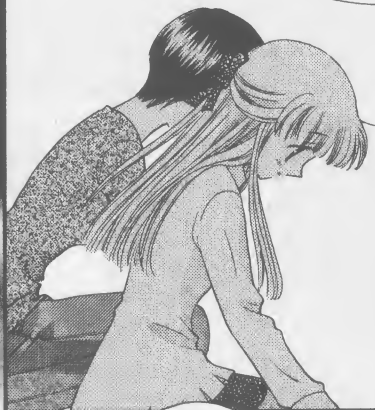
...I WOULD  
APOLOGIZE  
TO HER  
LIKE I WAS  
STUPID.



I WOULD  
FEEL...

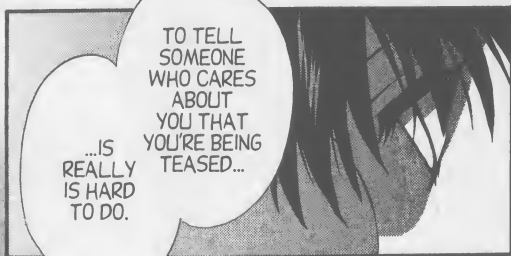
...SO  
PATHETIC.

SHE  
CAN'T  
SAY IT.



TO TELL  
SOMEONE  
WHO CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU THAT  
YOU'RE BEING  
TEASED...

...IS  
REALLY  
HARD  
TO DO.



I...  
COULDN'T  
SAY IT  
EITHER.

I DIDN'T  
WANT  
ANYONE  
TO KNOW  
I WAS LIKE  
THAT.

I WOULD  
DESPERATELY  
MAKE UP  
STORIES TO  
TRY AND  
HIDE IT.

AND THEN...



...I'D FEEL  
EVEN MORE  
PATHETIC.



I WAS SO  
SCARED.

I WAS  
ASHAMED  
WHEN MOM  
FOUND OUT.

I WOULD  
THINK THAT  
I WAS SO  
PATHETIC  
FOR BEING  
TEASED.

I  
WONDERED  
...

WHAT WOULD  
I DO IF SHE  
STARTED TO  
HATE ME?

I WAS SO  
SCARED.





WHEN SHE  
TOLD ME,  
"THERE'S  
NOTHING  
TO BE  
ASHAMED  
OF"...

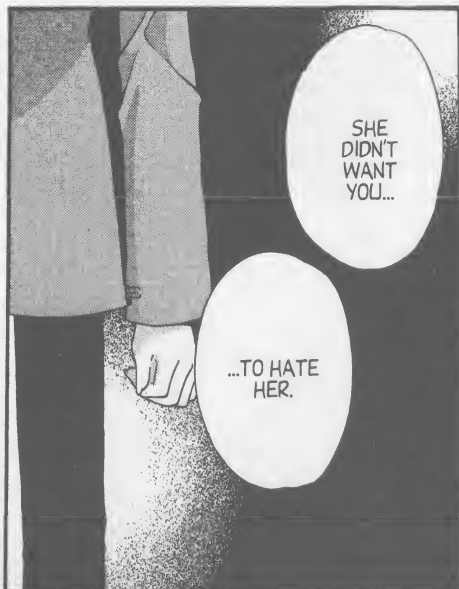
...THAT  
I STARTED  
CRYING AGAIN.

...I WAS SO  
RELIEVED...



KISA-SAN...

...MIGHT BE  
FEELING THE  
SAME WAY.



SHE  
DIDN'T  
WANT  
YOU...

...TO HATE  
HER.



AND  
ASHAMED.

SO...



...WHEN  
MOM  
TOLD  
ME...

..."IT'S  
OKAY"...

...I WAS SO  
RELIEVED.



I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY...

...BUT...

BUT PLEASE...

IT'S  
BECAUSE  
SHE LOVES  
YOU...

...THAT SHE  
COULDN'T  
TELL YOU.



DON'T  
HATE  
ME.

TELL ME...

...EVERYTHING'S  
OKAY.



I WAS  
ASHAMED  
OF MY  
WEAKNESS.

BUT...

...I WANT  
YOU TO  
SAY IT.

JUST  
ONCE.

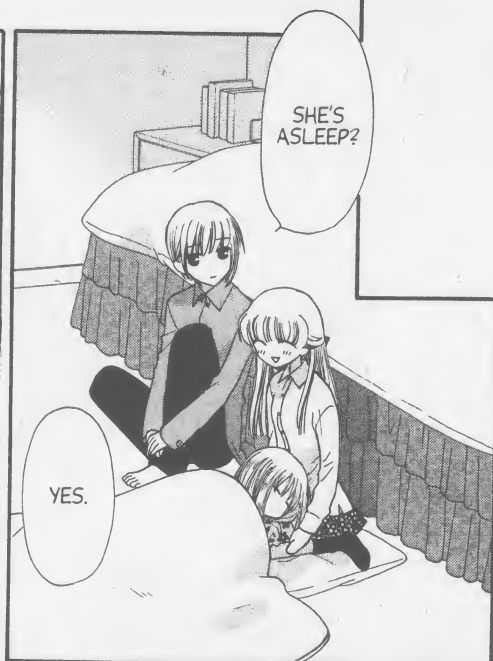
EVEN IF  
IT'S A LIE.

I WAS  
ALWAYS SO  
ASHAMED.

I KNOW. IT  
WILL GIVE  
ME THE  
COURAGE...

...TO TRY  
AND  
BECOME  
STRONG.







PLEASE  
LET ME  
WATCH  
HER...

...JUST  
FOR A  
WHILE...

JUST  
FOR A  
WHILE...

UM,  
YU...

AH...

IT WILL  
GIVE ME...



...THE  
COURAGE I  
NEED...

...TO GO ON.





## Chapter 28

*Sometimes they're gone for good...*

...I wish  
from the  
bottom of  
my heart...

THAT'S  
SO SAD...

At those  
times,  
instead of  
thinking  
...

Sometimes  
characters  
die in the  
middle  
of video  
games.

And some-  
times they  
leave the  
party.

th-thmp

th-thmp

th-thmp

th-thmp

twitch  
twitch  
twitch

...LEAVE  
ME ALL  
THE ITEMS  
YOU HAD  
EQUIPPED,  
'KAY??

Usually  
after a  
really  
hard  
sub-boss.

I can't believe you're  
beating yourself up  
over a video game...

It's fine...  
That's  
enough...  
No...  
I'm...

Then, after I've  
made sure they  
left me all their  
equipment, I get  
depressed about my  
own heartlessness.



## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

So people want to know what song Tohru was singing...  
 Maybe it was "A\*daba\*a"...Would Tohru be too young  
 to know it? Do all of you know it?



STRANGELY,  
DURING  
THESE  
THREE  
DAYS...

...KISA-SAN  
HASN'T LEFT  
MY SIDE.



SHE'S LIKE  
A LITTLE  
CHICK.

I GUESS  
THAT  
MEANS SHE  
REALLY  
LIKES ME!

SHE'S NOT  
ANNOYED-BEING  
FOLLOWED  
LIKE THAT?

It'd drive me  
crazy.

IT  
WARMS  
THE  
HEART!

I love  
you!!!

SHE  
CERTAINLY  
SEEMS TO BE  
ENJOYING IT.

hug

tup  
tup  
tup  
...

.....  
!

I just don't  
get it...

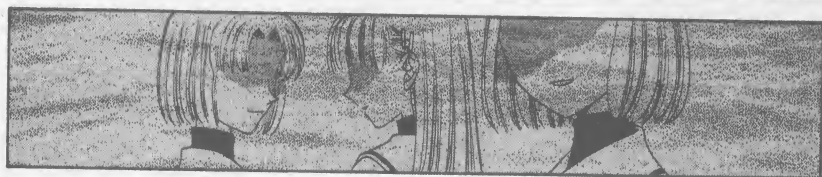
yo...

I'M  
HUNGRY.

AH! Yes,  
I'll start  
dinner!

KISA-SAN,  
WHAT SHOULD  
WE EAT TO-  
NIGHT?

.....



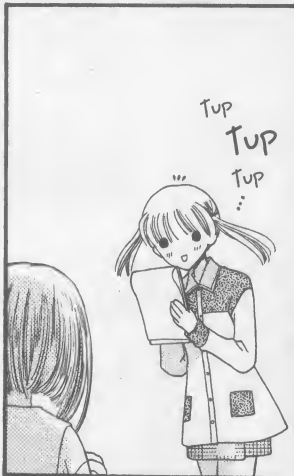
# Fruits Basket 5 Part 4:

I played Hanagumi Columns 2\*. (I'm still talking about games...) At first, I thought, "Why don't they fall on their side....?" (That's Puyo Puyo.) Once I figured out the game play, I piled practice upon practice (laugh), and on Progression Mode I beat all but the highest level without incident. Anyway, it's hard!! That highest level is a killer! (laugh) Even my Sakura Wars mentor K-chan was saying "Hmm" about it...

But we were both talking excitedly, saying, "That thing from that thing? It's so great?!"

(Thanks for always teaching me so many things, K-chan. I'm in your debt.) Puzzle games make my mind go blank. It feels as if only half of my brain is working. It's like exercise. And I'm in love with Mogiri! (laugh)

\*Editor's note: Hanagumi Columns 2 is a Tetris-like puzzle game based on the Sakura Taisen franchise.







\* A dish with leeks and egg.





LEEKS...SHE  
MIGHT AS  
WELL'VE  
JUST COME  
OUT AND  
SAID IT...

EH?  
?!

UH, NO, UM,  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO!

OF  
ALL THE  
THINGS...

UM, THAT IS...  
WHAT SHOULD  
I SAY?!



JUST...  
DO YOUR  
BEST...

AAH! I'M  
SORRY!



I'M SURE  
SHE'LL  
START  
TALKING...

...IN AN  
ADORABLE  
VOICE.

Oh dear,  
they're  
having a  
lovers' tiff over  
something  
like that.

What  
did you--?!  
No!

Wow,  
Kyo-kun. I  
didn't think  
you'd even  
know what  
a "tiff" is.

?



WHAT WILL  
KISA DO AFTER  
THIS?

...RIGHT?

SHE'S  
PROBABLY  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
THAT RIGHT  
NOW.



THAT'S  
PROBABLY  
WHY SHE  
ENDED UP  
RUNNING  
AWAY.

SHE REALLY  
INTERNALIZES  
HER PROBLEMS.  
SHE OBSESSES  
OVER THINGS,  
MAKING THEM  
A BIGGER DEAL  
THAN THEY  
WERE BEFORE.



BUT...

...SHE CAN'T RUN  
AWAY...

...FOREVER.



SHE CAN'T  
STAY AT  
SHII-CHAN'S  
HOUSE  
FOREVER...



AND...

...HER  
MOTHER...



SHE CALLED  
YESTERDAY...

"IS KISA  
DOING  
WELL?"

MOMIJI-  
KUN...

...KISA-SAN'S  
MOTHER IS  
DOING BETTER.



"HER  
FAVORITE  
DISH IS  
NIRA-TAMA."

"KISA  
DOESN'T  
LIKE DRY  
FOODS  
VERY  
MUCH..."

"IS KISA  
EATING  
ENOUGH?"



.....!

RIGHT!!



Kya!

Kya!



THAT MEANS...

THAT MEANS KISA'S MUTTI IS THINKING ABOUT HER...RIGHT?

IF SHE WASN'T, SHE WOULDN'T CALL...RIGHT?

That's right!

On the outside, he doesn't care about the main reason.

...HUH... WHAT? I DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW.



Hey!

...SHE WAS BEING TEASED?

STILL, I WONDER WHY...



.....!



LIKE HER  
HAIR AND  
EYES...  
IT MADE  
EVERYONE  
FEEL WEIRD,  
THEY SAID.

AT FIRST,  
IT WAS  
JUST THE  
WAY SHE  
LOOKED.

I HEARD  
SOME  
LADIES  
GOSSIPING.

KISA  
WOULD  
NEVER TELL  
ANYONE.

RUMORS  
START,  
YOU  
KNOW?



YES, BUT  
WHenever  
ANYONE SAID  
THOSE THINGS  
TO YOU, YOU'D  
TURN BLACK  
AND BEAT  
THEM TO A  
PULP.

I GOT  
THAT A  
LOT, TOO.

SUCH IS THE  
FATE OF THOSE  
OF US WHO ARE  
POSSESSED BY  
SPIRITS WITH  
UNUSUAL HAIR  
COLORS.



EH?!

Now that's  
what I call a  
delinquent...

EH...?

WELL,  
I WASN'T  
AS BAD AS  
KYO...

HE'D BEAT  
THEM NEARLY  
TO DEATH.



THEN...



...EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY WERE  
IGNORING  
HER...

...WHENEVER  
KISA SAID ANY-  
THING, THEY'D  
LAUGH.



SHE WASN'T  
TRYING TO  
BE FUNNY,  
BUT THEY'D  
JUST START  
GIGGLING.



BUT  
YOU  
KNOW...

THEY SAID  
THAT KISA  
TRIED  
REALLY  
HARD.

SHE TOLD  
THEM SHE  
COULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT HER  
HAIR AND EYE  
COLOR.

AND THEN...

...EVERYONE  
STARTED TO  
IGNORE HER.



YOU  
KNOW...

I'VE...NEVER  
HAD THAT  
HAPPEN TO ME  
IN CLASS.

ALL I CAN DO  
IS IMAGINE, SO  
THAT'S WHAT  
I DID...

...WONDERING  
HOW I'D FEEL  
IF EVERYONE  
STARTED  
GIGGLING AT  
ME EVERY TIME  
I SAID SOME-  
THING.

IT...

.....

IT WAS A  
VERY...

...SAD  
FEELING.



EVERYTHING  
LOOKS  
COMPLETELY  
DARK.

YOUR  
HEART...

...SHUTS  
DOWN.

...AND ARE  
NO LONGER  
ABLE TO  
SPEAK...

...EVEN  
KNOWING  
THAT ALL  
THAT DOES  
IS BOTHER  
EVERYONE.

...THEN YOU  
BECOME  
AFRAID OF  
EVERYONE...

IF  
EVERYTHING  
YOU SAY...

...GETS  
LAUGHED  
AT...

ほろ  
ほろ  
ほろ



キン  
コ  
ン  
カ  
ン

HEY,  
CLASS IS  
STARTING.

AH...!

YUKI.

SOME-  
THING TO GIVE  
HER?

I WANT TO  
SEE KISA,  
AND I HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
GIVE HER.

I'M GOING  
TO SENSEI'S  
HOUSE  
TODAY.

A  
LETTER.

FROM  
KISA'S  
TEACHER.

THE  
CONTENTS'D  
PROBABLY  
MAKE YOU  
VOMIT.

Bye...

Vomit?

AND YOUR  
WORDS  
DIE.

IN OUR  
SOCIETY,  
THEY TALK  
ABOUT  
SURVIVAL  
OF THE  
FITTEST.  
  
BUT  
WE'RE NOT  
ANIMALS...

...BUT I DON'T  
THINK IT'S  
GOOD TO BE  
TOO STRONG  
EITHER.

I KNOW IT'S  
NOT GOOD...

WE'RE  
HUMAN.

TO BE  
WEAK  
AND  
HELP-  
LESS...

YES...

EVEN WE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC...

...ARE  
HUMAN.

YES.

I THINK  
I HAVE  
GOTTEN  
BRAVER.

...YEAH

WHAT'S  
MORE  
IMPORTANT  
...

...THAN  
ANYTHING?

EH?



FWIP

839



.....



WHAT  
DOES IT  
SAY?

slump



You can come  
to me for  
advice, so  
won't you try  
harder to join  
everyone?



And  
what's  
most im-  
portant...

...Is for  
you to like  
yourself,  
Sohma-  
san.

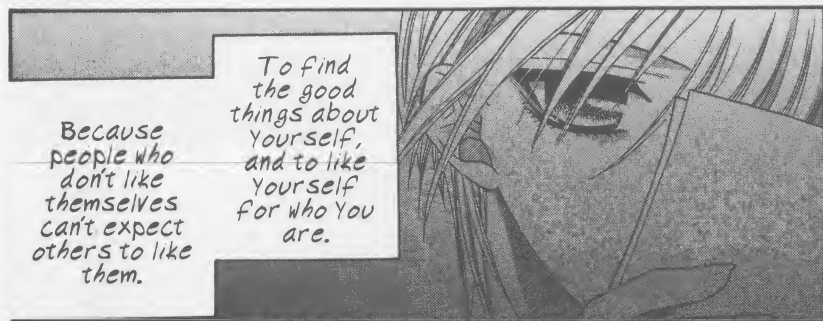


Sohma-san,  
how are  
you? Will you  
be coming  
to school  
soon?

Everyone  
in class  
is waiting  
for you  
to come  
back.

Egad...

IT REALLY  
DOES MAKE  
YOU WANT TO  
VOMIT...



Because  
people who  
don't like  
themselves  
can't expect  
others to like  
them.

To find  
the good  
things about  
yourself,  
and to like  
yourself  
for who you  
are.



I...

!



JUST  
LIKE  
YOU.

...WHEN I  
STOPPED  
TALKING.

THERE  
WAS A  
TIME...

.....



MY  
REASONS  
...



HERE...

...IT SAYS  
TO "LIKE  
YOUR-  
SELF."



...I  
THINK...  
THE  
FEELINGS  
...

...OF BEING  
ASHAMED  
OF MYSELF  
AND HATING  
MYSELF...

...ARE  
THE  
SAME.



...WERE A  
LITTLE BIT  
DIFFERENT...

...BUT...

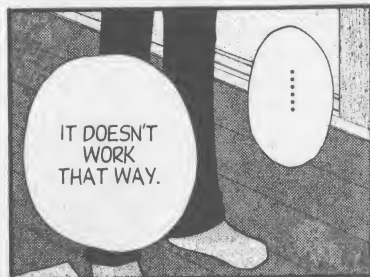




BUT...

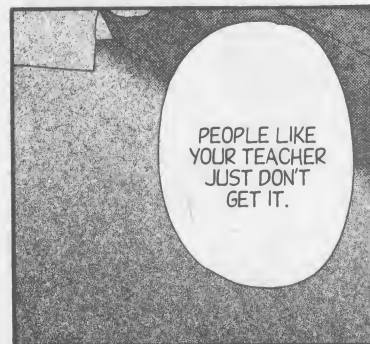
...IT  
FEELS  
SO  
EMPTY.

...EVEN IF  
YOU FORCE  
YOURSELF  
TO FIND GOOD  
THINGS...



IT DOESN'T  
WORK  
THAT WAY.

...



PEOPLE LIKE  
YOUR TEACHER  
JUST DON'T  
GET IT.



WHAT  
DOES THAT  
MEAN?

GOOD  
THINGS--

HOW ARE YOU  
SUPPOSED TO  
FIND THEM?

I ONLY  
KNOW  
THINGS  
THAT  
I HATE  
ABOUT  
MYSELF.

BECAUSE  
THAT'S ALL I  
KNOW, I HATE  
MYSELF.



I THINK...

...WHEN YOU  
HEAR SOME-  
ONE SAY THEY  
LIKE YOU, FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME...

...THEN YOU  
CAN BEGIN  
TO LIKE  
YOURSELF.

I THINK WHEN  
SOMEONE  
ACCEPTS YOU,  
FOR THE FIRST  
TIME...

...YOU FEEL  
LIKE YOU  
CAN...

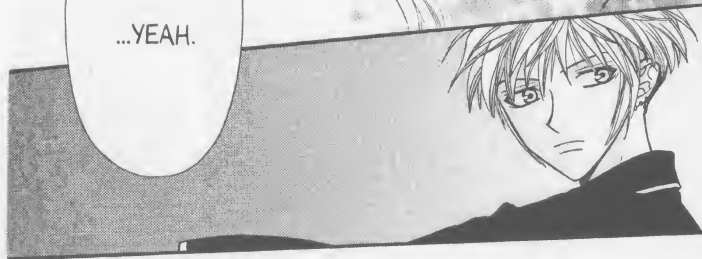
...FORGIVE  
YOURSELF A  
LITTLE.

YOU CAN  
BEGIN TO  
FACE YOUR  
FEARS...



...WITH  
COURAGE

...YEAH.



YEAH.



I WAS  
SO  
HAP...

...PY...

YEAH...



...OR I'LL...  
BECOME...

...WORSE  
AND...  
WORSE.

EVEN IF  
MY HEART...

...IS STILL  
SEEN AS  
INFERIOR.

EVEN IF  
I CAN'T  
MAKE  
UP WITH  
THEM...

EVEN...IF  
THEY ALL  
IGNORE ME.

I STILL  
HAVE  
TO...

...TRY MY  
BEST.

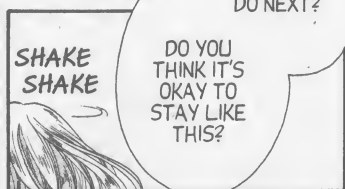


KI...



KISA.

KISA,  
WHAT  
DO YOU...  
WANT TO  
DO NEXT?



SHAKE  
SHAKE


DO YOU  
THINK IT'S  
OKAY TO  
STAY LIKE  
THIS?



NO...

NEVER...

I HAVE  
TO...  
TRY MY  
BEST...



I'LL TRY,  
TOO.



THAT'S  
RIGHT...

SOMEDAY...



...COME  
HERE.

AND IF YOU  
GET SAD  
AGAIN...

...OR IF  
THINGS  
GET TOO  
ROUGH...

...I'LL HAVE TO  
STAND UP FOR  
MY WORTH-  
LESS SELF.



HERE...

IS WHERE  
SHE IS.

LET'S  
TRY OUR  
BEST.



YOU  
FINALLY

...

...SPOKE.



IT'S BEEN  
SO LONG...



LET'S  
TRY OUR  
BEST?

ONEE-  
CHAN.







ONEE-  
CHAN...



I HOPE  
THAT  
SOME-  
DAY...



...MANY  
TEARS  
THAT  
WERE  
SHED...

...WILL BE  
WORTH IT.

...THE MANY...



Uwaahh!

Uwaahh!  
Kisa-saa-  
aan!

Uwah!





EVERYONE  
WALKED  
WITH HER  
PART OF  
THE WAY  
TO SEE  
HER OFF.



HE SAID  
HE HAD  
SOME-  
THING HE  
HAD TO  
DO.

YUKI  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
COME,  
TOO.

TO  
BE  
HONEST

...I WAS SAD  
TO SEE KISA-  
SAN LEAVE  
MY SIDE.



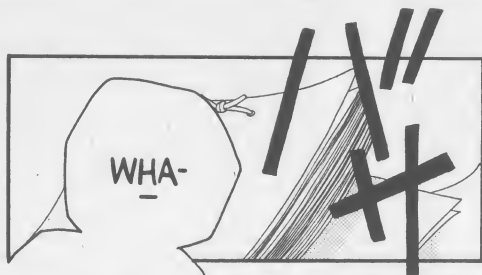
I'LL  
COPE  
WITH  
IT...

I HAVE TO.  
AFTER ALL,  
KISA-SAN IS  
FIGHTING SO  
BRAVELY.

AND  
SO...

...KISA-SAN  
SAID THAT  
SHE WOULD  
GO TO  
SCHOOL...

...EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT'LL TAKE  
A WHILE  
FOR HER TO  
GET USED  
TO SPEAKING  
AGAIN.



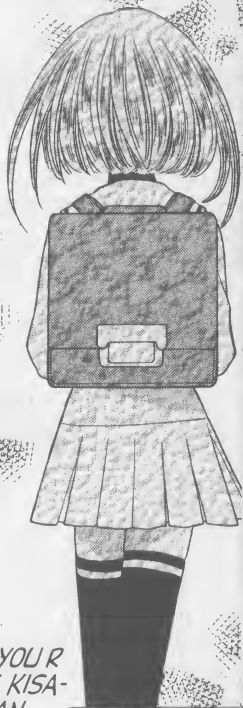
*You have to be elected first!*



I WANT  
TO MAKE UP  
FOR IT BY  
FULFILLING  
THE DUTIES OF  
STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT.

I APOLOGIZE  
FOR RUNNING  
AWAY...  
...AND FOR  
CAUSING YOU  
TROUBLE.

*TRY YOUR  
BEST.*



*TRY YOU R  
BEST, KISA-  
SAN.*





YOU'RE  
DOING  
THIS FOR  
ME--

NO.



gaze

い  
ん

I HUMBL  
Y REQUEST  
YOUR  
GUIDANCE.

YUKI-  
KUN.

IT'S NOT THAT...

whoosh...



S  
L  
A  
M

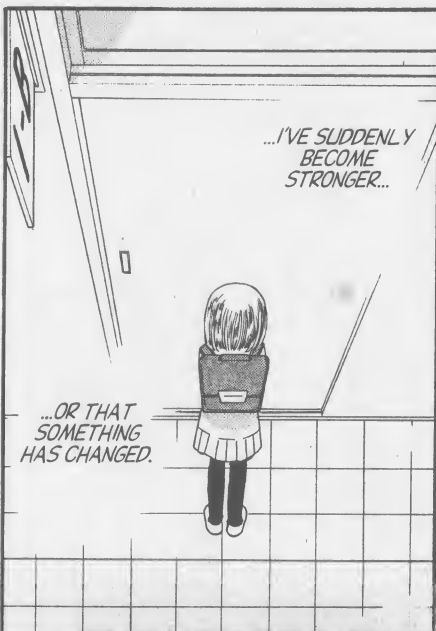
BUT...

I'M STILL  
SHAKING.



...OR THAT  
SOMETHING  
HAS CHANGED.

...I'VE SUDDENLY  
BECOME  
STRONGER...



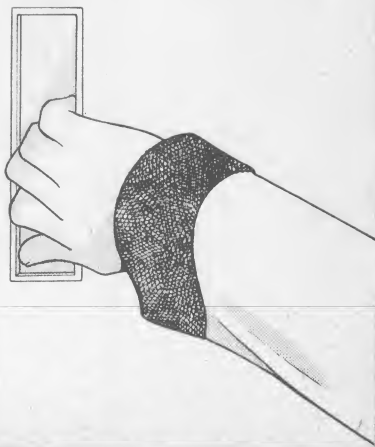
*WE DON'T HAVE  
TO LET THOSE  
FEARS STOP US.*



*WHAT'S MOST  
IMPORTANT...*



*...IS THAT WE  
TRY TO RISE  
ABOVE OUR  
WEAKNESS.*





## Chapter 29

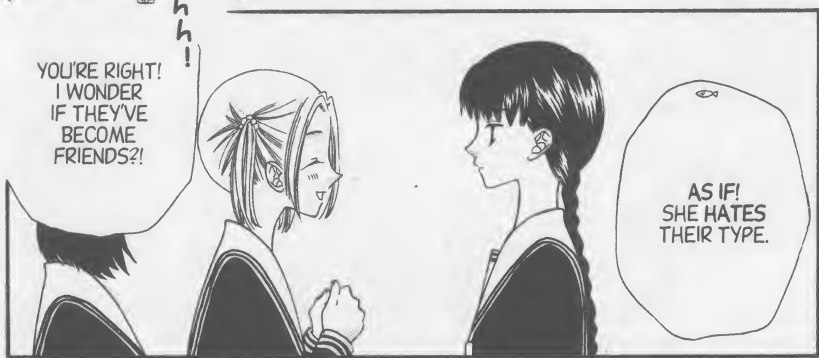
I feel so grateful!



For Harada-sama,  
Araki-sama, Kawai-sama,  
Mother, Editor-sama, and  
everyone who reads this  
and supports me!

She's wearing her  
uniform from when she  
was in high school. It's  
slightly different from  
Kisa's middle school  
uniform.

Next is Momitchi.  
This has been Natsuki Takaya.



## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

I don't know if they're good people or not, but every time Motoko-chan and company try to do something and it backfires, it makes me laugh so much that I can't help but like them. (Like Shouka\*.) Is that a mean thing to say? (laugh) I want to draw Megumi again. The strongest combo in Furuba, Saki & Megumi. (laugh)

\* A character in Takaya-sensei's previous series, *Tsubasa o Motsumono*.



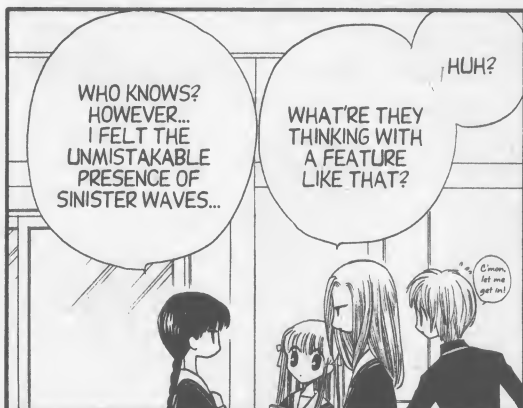


WHA'S'UP?  
WERE THEY  
TRYING TO  
STICK YOU  
WITH THE  
BLAME FOR  
SOMETHING?

OH MY...  
You were  
watching us?

OH!  
THEY'RE  
COMING.

YO, HANA-  
JIMA!



WHO KNOWS?  
HOWEVER...  
I FELT THE  
UNMISTAKABLE  
PRESENCE OF  
SINISTER WAVES...

WHAT'RE THEY  
THINKING WITH  
A FEATURE  
LIKE THAT?

HUH?

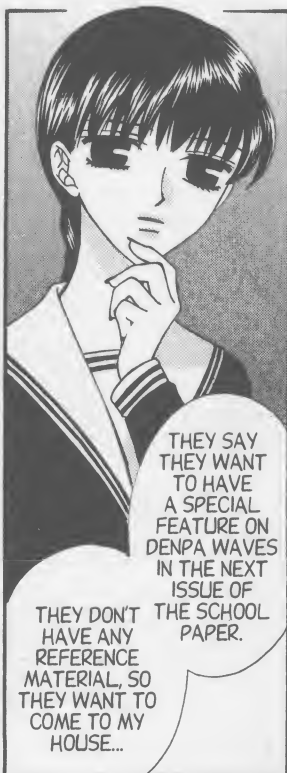
... (Cinnam  
let me  
get in)



WELL? DID  
YOU SAY  
OKAY?

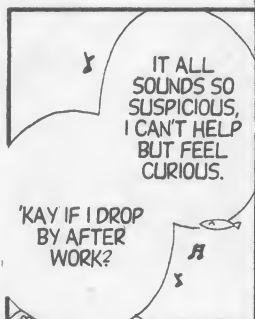
OF COURSE...

EH...?



THEY SAY  
THEY WANT  
TO HAVE  
A SPECIAL  
FEATURE ON  
DENPA WAVES  
IN THE NEXT  
ISSUE OF  
THE SCHOOL  
PAPER.

THEY DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
REFERENCE  
MATERIAL, SO  
THEY WANT TO  
COME TO MY  
HOUSE...






"SINISTER WAVES..."



YUKI'S BEAUTY  
SPARKLES EVEN  
BRIGHTER THAN  
USUAL!



WHAT IS  
IT? IS IT THE  
GLITTER OF  
THE DIGNITY OF  
BEING THE NEXT  
STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT?

NO...



SWOON...

HOW CAN  
IT BE?!

# Fruits Basket 5 Part 5:

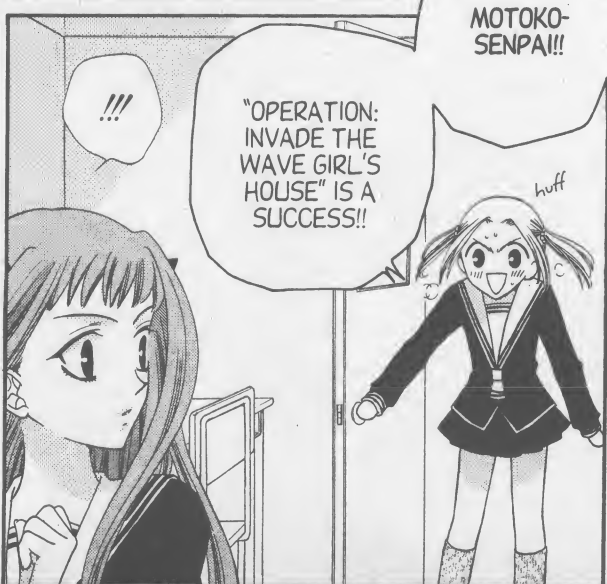
Also, lately I've played... (Yup. Here she goes again about her video games...) I finished Chrono Cross. I thought of a lot of things. (Not about the game.) I finally got through Resident Evil: Code Veronica, too. By far, the monsters I hate the most are the Hunters... Whenever a Hunter turned up, I screamed. I'm still in the middle of Legend of Dragoon. Better hurry up because Grandia 2 is coming out, and in the summer is Final Fantasy (isn't that wrong?). I have so much to do (laugh). When a FF game comes out, I drop everything to play it, so it's very dangerous. Will the Crystals be revived, or not? (Am I wrong?) Aahh, those were the days. The Crystal was shattered; it brings back memories... (She gazes off into the distance...) The darkness with the paladin and Gilgamesh and Excalibur and the fresh fish... (Gazing even farther into the distance...)



NO, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT IS THE SPARKLE OF A PRINCE.

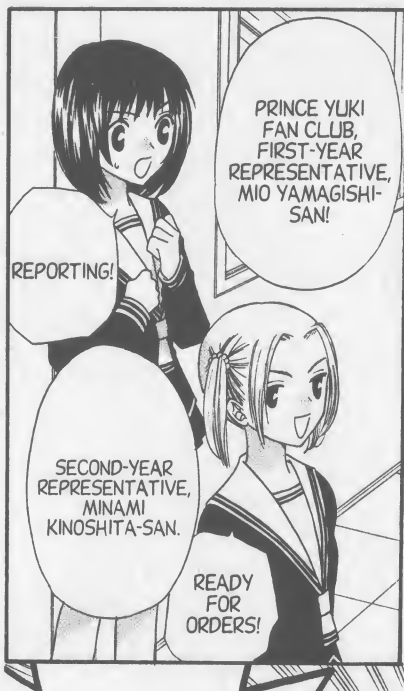
IT'S YUKI'S NATURAL LIGHT.



MOTOKO-SENPAI!!!

"OPERATION: INVADE THE WAVE GIRL'S HOUSE" IS A SUCCESS!!

!!!



REPORTING!

PRINCE YUKI  
FAN CLUB,  
FIRST-YEAR  
REPRESENTATIVE,  
MIO YAMAGISHI-  
SAN!

SECOND-YEAR  
REPRESENTATIVE,  
MINAMI  
KINOSHITA-SAN.

READY  
FOR  
ORDERS!



DID THE  
WAVE GIRL  
SUSPECT  
ANYTHING?!

WELL DONE!  
WELL DONE,  
MINAMI-SAN!

NO,  
NOTHING!

*clack*

*She just  
gave the  
OK!*

*You're wrong...*



LET US  
MOVE  
ON TO  
THE  
NEXT  
STEP.

PERFECT.

THE  
EXTERMINATION  
OF TOHRU  
HONDA!!



AND I, THE  
THIRD-YEAR  
REPRESENTA-  
TIVE, MOTOKO  
MINAGAWA...

TOGETHER  
WE CANNOT  
FAIL IN OUR  
MISSION:



Prince  
Charming  
Mode

And so the club  
rules are strict  
and absolute.

1. Do not steal Prince Charming's private property.
2. Do not go inside the Prince's house.
3. When you talk to him, you must have someone with you.
4. Refer to him as follows:  
Third years = Yuki  
Second years = Yuki-kun  
First years = Sohma-kun
5. Etc.

Anyone who  
disobeys (even  
if they're not  
in the club)  
may or may not  
receive **harsh**  
punishment!!

"Prince Yuki" is  
the name for the  
Yuki Sohma fan  
club that exists  
within Kaibara  
High School.

They say its  
membership  
includes more  
than half the  
female student  
body!

Their club  
mission state-  
ment is "Let us  
all extol, love,  
and protect  
the Prince who  
has graced our  
school with his  
presence"...

OUR CLUB CAN  
NO LONGER TURN  
A BLIND EYE TO  
THESE COUNTLESS  
TRANSGRESSIONS.  
NOW THAT MY  
SENIORS HAVE  
GRADUATED,  
I CAN FINALLY  
ENFORCE THE  
RULES PROPERLY...

**TOHRU  
HONDA  
MUST BE  
PUNISHED!**

...but what  
they really  
mean is,  
"Don't  
steal him,  
bitch!!"



...FALL  
IN LOVE  
WITH HER,  
I...!!

IF MY BELOVED  
YUKI WERE TO BE  
SO THOROUGHLY  
DECEIVED BY  
THIS WITCH,  
AND, GOD FORBID,  
FALL...FALL...

A  
A  
H  
!

PLEASE,  
STOP!!

WE HAVE TO  
PROTECT HIM  
FROM SUCH  
WITCHES!!

YOU'RE  
RIGHT...  
YOU'RE  
EXACTLY  
RIGHT,  
MINAMI-SAN!

...AND TO BE SO  
CLOSE EVEN TO  
THE RELATIVES  
OF THE DIVINE  
YUKI?!

WHAT GIVES  
HER THE RIGHT  
TO LAUGH WITH  
YUKI, TO COME  
TO SCHOOL  
WITH YUKI...

TOHRU  
HONDA...  
THAT GIRL  
IS A WITCH!!

A DEMON WHO  
CONTROLS  
ELECTRO-  
POISON DENPA  
WAVES!!

BUT THE  
WITCH IS  
PROTECTED  
BY A DEMON  
LORD WITH  
TREMENDOUS  
POWERS...

YES...





I was put to sleep for a week. I heard voices in my head the entire time. No one will believe me.

YES, THOSE WAVES ARE INDEED VERY TERRIBLE.

I FEEL YOUR PAIN, MINAMISAN...

See chapter 13...

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, WE MUST FIND THE DEMON'S WEAKNESS...

BUT HANA-JIMA... SHE'S SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY!

ARISA LOTANI IS A YANKEE, BUT AT LEAST SHE'S HUMAN!

THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO FIGHT HER!

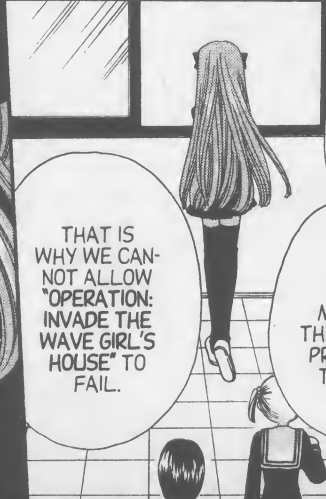
She crossed the limits of humanity long ago!

...AND USE THAT WEAKNESS TO SEAL HER POISONOUS WAVES!!

YES...YES, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. BUT IF WE WANT TO ELIMINATE THE WITCH...

...FIRST WE MUST CAUSE THE DEMON WHO PROTECTS HER TO RETREAT.

THAT IS WHY WE CAN NOT ALLOW "OPERATION: INVADE THE WAVE GIRL'S HOUSE" TO FAIL.



YES,  
MA'AM!

...LET'S  
ALL  
DO OUR  
BEST!!

TO PROTECT  
YUKI'S YOUNG,  
TENDER  
HEART...



Ha-

HANAJIMA-  
SAN, YOU RIDE  
THE TRAIN TO  
SCHOOL?

HUH ?!  
UM,  
OKAY...

WE  
TURN  
HERE...

THIS  
WAY.

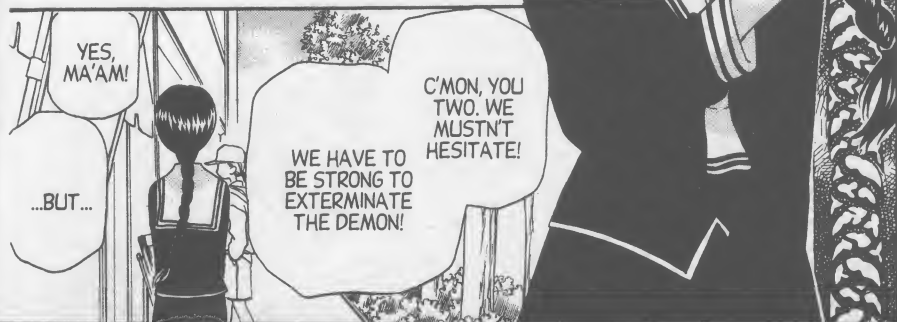


YES,  
MA'AM!

...BUT...

WE HAVE TO  
BE STRONG TO  
EXTERMINATE  
THE DEMON!

C'MON, YOU  
TWO. WE  
MUSTN'T  
HESITATE!



AND IN HER ROOM THERE'S A STRANGE MAGIC CIRCLE, AND FALLEN STATUES, AS IF SHE WERE STARTING SOME KIND OF RITUAL....

AND IN THE YARD THERE ARE TOMB-STONES!

...I SEE A CREEPY OLD WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE COVERED IN LOTS OF IVY, AND FOR SOME REASON THE SKY AROUND IT IS ALWAYS CLOUDY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HANAJIMA-SENPAI'S HOUSE WILL BE LIKE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW...IT'S JUST, WHEN I IMAGINE IT...

TEE HEE! SENPAI, WHAT WILL WE DO IF HER HOUSE REALLY IS FREAKY LIKE THAT?



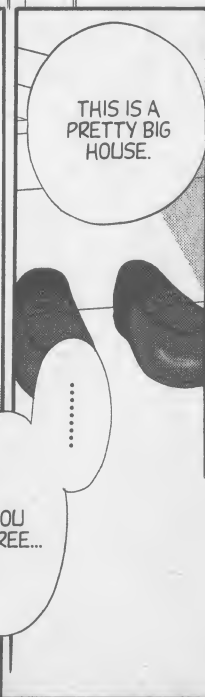
WHAT? ALREADY?!

WE'RE HERE...

WE'LL RUN FOR OUR LIVES!!



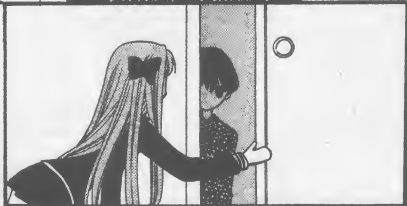
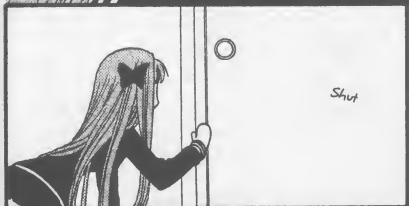
What about your plan?







...DO...

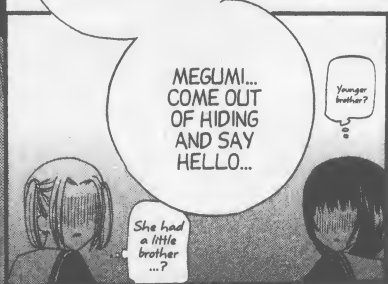


HANAJIMA-  
SAN—  
JUST NOW—  
BEHIND THAT  
DOOR—  
THERE—  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING—  
IN THERE—  
WHAT CAN  
IT-?!



I  
APOLO-  
GIZE FOR  
MAKING  
YOU  
WAIT...





She still has one.





YES,  
HE DOES!!  
HE LOOKS  
EXACTLY  
LIKE YOU!!

NO HE  
DOESN'T...

Y-YOU  
LOOK JUST  
LIKE YOUR  
SISTER.

UM...WELL,  
MEGUMI...  
KUN?

MEGUMI-  
KUN, CAN  
YOU...SEND  
WAVES OR  
SOMETHING,  
TOO?

eh  
heh  
heh...

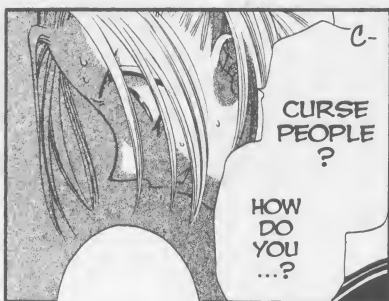
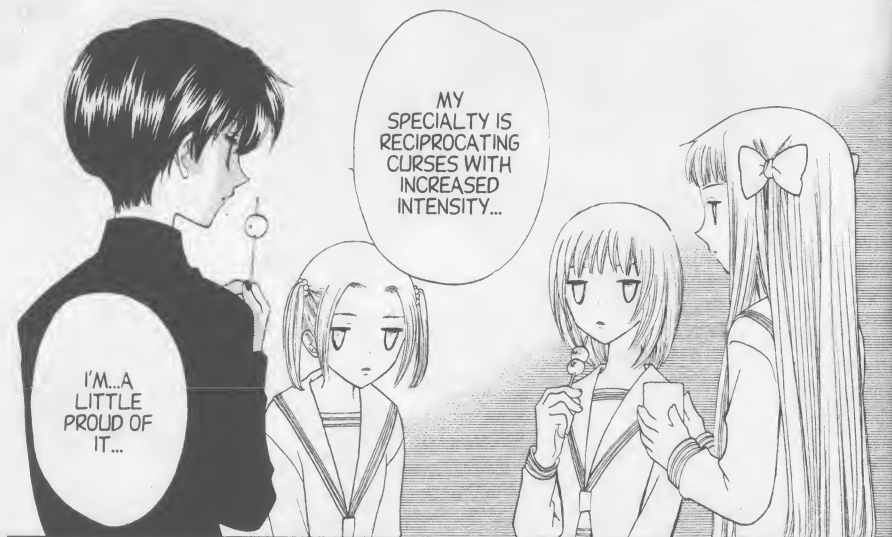
I CAN'T  
DO ANY-  
THING  
LIKE  
THAT...

Oh, good...

...IS CURSE  
PEOPLE...

ALL  
I CAN  
DO...







...YOUR NAMES...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

...I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD...



That's right!

HATE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND RUN, B-B-BUT SHE'S RIGHT! YUP! HONESTLY!! REALLY!!

YOUR NAMES...

Now, now!

IT WOULD BE RUDE OF US TO STAY TOO LONG!!

LET US FINISH OUR BUSINESS AND BE ON OUR WAY, L-LIKE A REFRESHING GUST OF WIND IN THE MONTH OF MAY!!

THAT'S TOO  
MUCH TO  
THE POINT!!

HANAJIMA-  
SENPAI, DO  
YOU HAVE A  
WEAKNESS?

whisper  
whisper

SENPAI...  
I WANT  
TO LEAVE  
RIGHT NOW!!

I'm scared...

whisper

NO! REMEMBER  
WHAT WE  
CAME HERE  
TO DO!!

whisper  
whisper

whisper  
whisper

YEAH! WE  
JUST HAVE  
TO GET TO  
THE POINT...

WHAT?!

WHAT?!

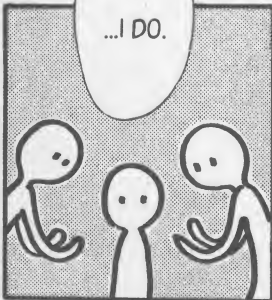
WHAT?

...HEAVY  
MATTER...

SUCH A...



...I DO.





TH--

BUT TO  
LOOK FOR MY  
WEAKNESS...

...IS A VERY  
CHILDISH  
WAY TO DO  
THINGS...



*It doesn't  
take a  
psychic to tell  
they're up to  
something...*

THAT'S DIRTY!  
USING WAVES  
TO READ OUR  
MINDS!!

I AM NOT  
READING  
YOUR  
MINDS...

ALL  
RIGHT,  
GIRLS...



IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED.  
WE'VE BEEN  
FOUND OUT,  
SO LET'S  
STOP BEATING  
AROUND THE  
BUSH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.  
WE ABSOLUTELY  
DESPISE THE  
WITCH...I MEAN,  
TOHRU HONDA.



YOU ARE ALL  
IN THE YUKI  
SOHMA FAN  
CLUB, ARE  
YOU NOT...?

まじっ?

YOU MUST  
HATE THAT  
TOHRU-KUN  
HAS GOTTEN  
TO BE SUCH A  
GOOD FRIEND  
OF YUKI SOHMA  
RECENTLY...

UM!

YOU  
MUST  
WANT TO  
PUNISH  
TOHRU-  
KUN...

ER!

...BUT I  
AM IN  
THE WAY OF  
YOUR  
DOING  
THAT...

ARE YOU...  
SCARED...?

IT'S NOT  
JEALOUSY!  
WE'RE  
RIGHTFULLY  
ANGRY!!

ACTIONS  
SPAWNED FROM  
JEALOUSY  
ARE QUITE  
UNBECOMING...

HOW ABOUT  
THIS? WILL  
YOU ASK HER...

...TO PUT  
A LITTLE  
MORE  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
HERSELF  
AND YUKI?

THAT IS UP  
TO THE TWO  
OF THEM...

YEAH!  
WHO DOES  
SHE THINK  
SHE IS?!

WHAT MAKES  
HER THINK YUKI-  
KUN WANTS TO  
BE AROUND HER?  
SHE MAKES ME  
SICK!!

THAT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE  
JEALOUSY  
TO ME...

...WHAT  
ABOUT YOU?  
WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT  
TOHRU-KUN?

...MERELY  
FOR HER  
ASSOCIATION  
WITH SOME-  
THING LIKE  
YUKI...

IT SADDENS  
ME TO KNOW  
THAT SHE IS  
LOOKED DOWN  
UPON...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU LOOK DOWN ON TOHRU-KUN...

WHAT ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN ON YUKI...AND ON US!

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE MOCKING US WITH THOSE LIGHT-LESS EYES!!

*Her eyes were like this from the beginning.*

YES! BUT OF COURSE WE HEARD HER!

"SOMETHING LIKE"...?!

YOU WOULD DARE CALL THE PRINCE A "THING"?!

DID YOU HEAR THAT? YOU TWO HEARD HER, DIDN'T YOU?!

MAKING THAT FACE LIKE SHE'S...LIKE SHE'S THE ONE YUKI LIKES THE MOST.

MAKING SPORT OF YUKI AND GETTING ALL CONCEITED!!

IF YOU LIKE HIM...

I-WE-TRULY ADORE YUKI.

DARE I SAY, WE LOVE HIM.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH TOHRU HONDA'S ACTIONS ARE TRAMPLING ON THOSE FEELINGS?





...YOU CANNOT  
SAY WHAT-  
EVER COMES  
INTO YOUR  
HEAD...

...AND ASSUME  
YOU WILL BE  
FORGIVEN...



YOU SHOULD  
CHOOSE  
YOUR WORDS  
MORE  
THOUGHT-  
FULLY.

IF YOU LIKE  
HIM, HOW CAN YOU  
SPEAK ABOUT HIM  
SO DISRESPECT-  
FULLY?



...AND YOU  
WILL JUST  
END UP  
HURTING  
THEM IN  
THE END...

...THEN YOU  
ARE NOTHING  
BUT A BURDEN  
TO THEM...

YOU SHOULD  
KNOW THAT  
IF YOU  
BOMBARD  
SOMEONE...

...WITH  
ONE-SIDED  
LOVE...



WHA?!

YOU MUST  
REMEMBER  
TO RESPECT  
THE OTHER  
PERSON'S  
FEELINGS...

...FOR IF  
YOU DO  
NOT ...

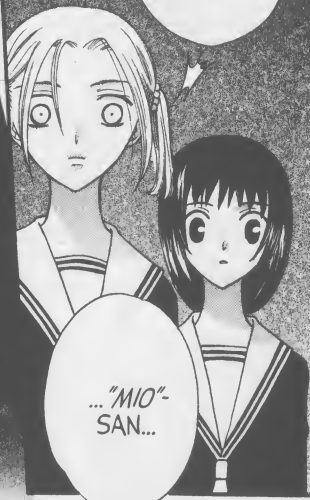
...HE WILL  
ONLY  
HATE YOU  
IN THE  
END.

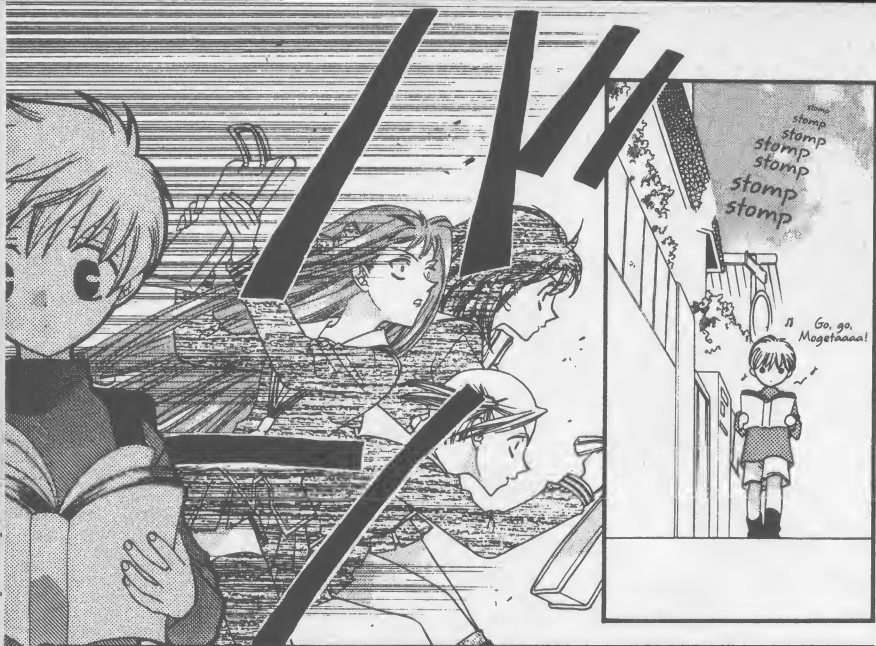
...AND  
"MOTOKO"...

...SAN?

"MINAMI"-  
SAN...

... "MIO"-  
SAN...





BUT...

"RESPECT  
THE OTHER  
PERSON'S  
FEELINGS."

YOU ARE  
RIGHT.

...I WAS A  
LITTLE...

...JEALOUS,  
TOO...

...  
ACTUALLY,

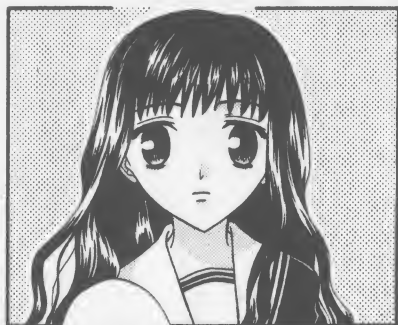
IT FELT  
LIKE THE  
SOHMA  
FAMILY  
HAD TAKEN  
TOHRU-KUN  
FROM ME.  
IT LEFT ME  
FEELING...  
...LONELY.

THAT'S WHY  
I CANNOT BE  
SELFISH...

YOU CAN  
LEARN FROM  
THEIR BAD  
EXAMPLE...

But it was  
rude of me  
to call Yuki  
Sohma a  
"thing"...

I MUSTN'T  
BE LIKE  
THOSE  
THREE...



...TOHRU-KUN?

I MET HER  
AT THE  
STATION.



HANA-CHAN...  
UH, UM,  
WHERE ARE  
KINOSHITA-  
SAN AND THE  
OTHERS?

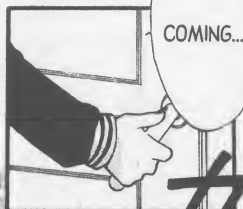
I HAVEN'T  
SEEN YOU  
IN A WHILE,  
TOHRU-SAN...  
ARISA-SAN.

Syo?



YES, IT  
HAS BEEN A  
LONG TIME,  
MEGUMI-  
SAN.

Ah!



COMING...



カチヤ

YO!

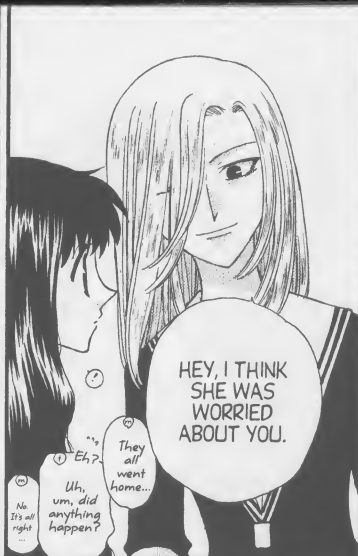


HANA-  
CHAN!



...IT CAN BE A LITTLE  
PAINFUL TO SEE  
THEM FIND HAPPINESS  
WITH ANOTHER...

...AND SOMETIMES  
YOU MAY GET  
LONELY...



BUT...

...IT CAN ALSO  
MAKE YOU  
HAPPY.





So  
we're  
all  
going!

Would  
you like to  
join us in  
escorting her,  
Megumi...?

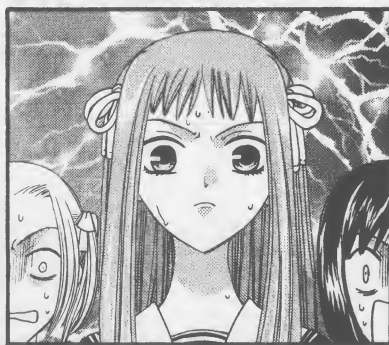
Tohru-kun  
has to go to  
work after  
this...

Yes...

...TOHRU-  
KUN.

ALL THE  
SAME...

...MY  
WEAKNESS  
WILL  
ALWAYS  
BE...





THE CURSE  
WILL TAKE  
EFFECT IN  
THREE DAYS...

AS YOU  
WISH...  
OH, AND  
BY THE  
WAY...

HUH...?



...BUT THE  
PRINCE YUKI  
CLUB WILL  
NEVER GIVE IN  
TO YOU!!

YESTERDAY,  
WE FAILED  
AND RAN  
AWAY...

YOU'RE A  
DEMON!!

WHO  
KNOWS...?  
YOU'LL  
JUST HAVE  
TO FIND OUT  
IN THREE  
DAYS...

Ha!  
HANAJIMA-  
SAN, Y-Y-  
YOU DON'T  
MEAN  
WE'RE  
REALLY  
CURSED?!

YOU'RE A  
DEMON IN  
MIND AND  
BODY!!



I apologize for  
speaking poorly  
of you...

Eh?

Things  
must be  
difficult for  
you, too...

Huh?



## Chapter 30



...IF YOU'VE GOT  
RED MARKS IN  
EVEN ONE OF  
YOUR SUB-  
JECTS...

...YOU'RE  
MAKING  
IT UP ON  
SUNDAY!!

WHERE  
DOES YOUR  
HAPPINESS  
COME  
FROM?



YOU  
SHOULD BE  
GRATEFUL THAT  
US TEACHERS  
ARE WASTING  
OUR TIME ON  
YOU GUYS ON  
OUR DAY OFF!

Hey!  
Don't  
give me  
that!

うげ  
Bleh!

BY NOW YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
RECEIVED THE  
RESULTS OF  
YOUR MID-  
TERMS, BUT...

## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

What phrase were Shigure and Momiji using? Good question...  
(I just like to make them sing.) Oh, by the way, Tohru fell down  
once, but after that, she managed to walk home.

Fruits Basket 5  
Part 6:

Strangely, I'm really into candy lately. Cotton candy in particular. I like to keep some on hand to munch on. Only problem is, I've been making myself sick! (You're eating too much, duh.) Of course my brain tells me, "you've had enough!" But... (laugh) My favorite candy is gum. I'm always chewing it. As for Japanese sweets, I like things like dango\*. But I don't like azuki beans\*, so when I have a taiyaki\* or something, I'll squeeze all the paste out and then eat it. (You're probably wondering why I even bother trying to eat it.) ♡ The only thing I can eat even with the bean-paste in it is kashiwa mochi.\* When it comes to cake, I'm a cheesecake kind of girl. Yup. (Why am I talking about my favorite foods...?) As for rice, I like it with thick flavoring. So if it's too bland, I don't like it.

\*dango: dumplings of mochi (a chewy dough made of rice flour)

\*azuki beans: sweet red beans used in desserts throughout Asia

\*taiyaki: fish-shaped pancakes filled with azuki bean paste

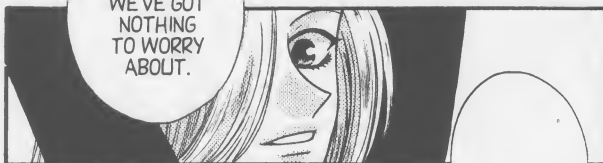
\*Kashiwa mochi: mochi balls filled with azuki beans



YEAH,  
YEAH.

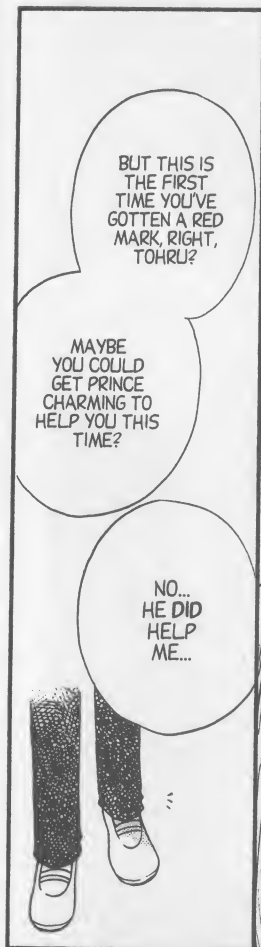
IF YOU'RE GONNA  
BITCH ABOUT  
MAKE-UP TESTS,  
THEN DON'T GET  
RED MARKS TO  
BEGIN WITH.

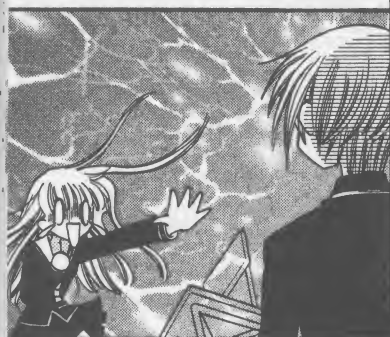
OF COURSE  
WE'VE GOT  
NOTHING  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT.



RIGHT,  
TOH...RU...?









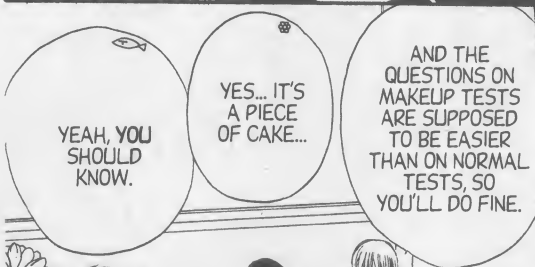
HONDA-SAN...



EVERYONE HAS THEIR OFF DAYS.



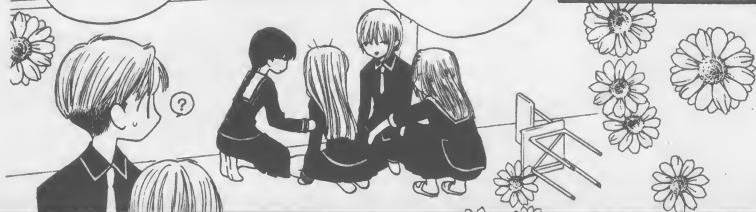
YUKI-KUN WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO HELP ME, AND I STILL GOT A RED MARK...



YES... IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE...

YEAH, YOU SHOULD KNOW.

I'VE RETURNED HIS GOOD WITH FAILURE. I CAN'T FACE HIM!





I'M SO  
PATHETIC...

SO...

...YOU  
HAVE TO  
TAKE A  
MAKEUP  
TEST?



WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH  
YOU?

DO YOU  
WANT  
ME TO  
JUST  
LEAVE  
YOU  
THERE?

HEY.



I'M SO  
PATHETIC. I  
WONDER IF I'LL  
BE ABLE TO  
KEEP THE  
PROMISE I MADE  
WITH MOM...

...THAT I'D  
GRADUATE  
HIGH SCHOOL.

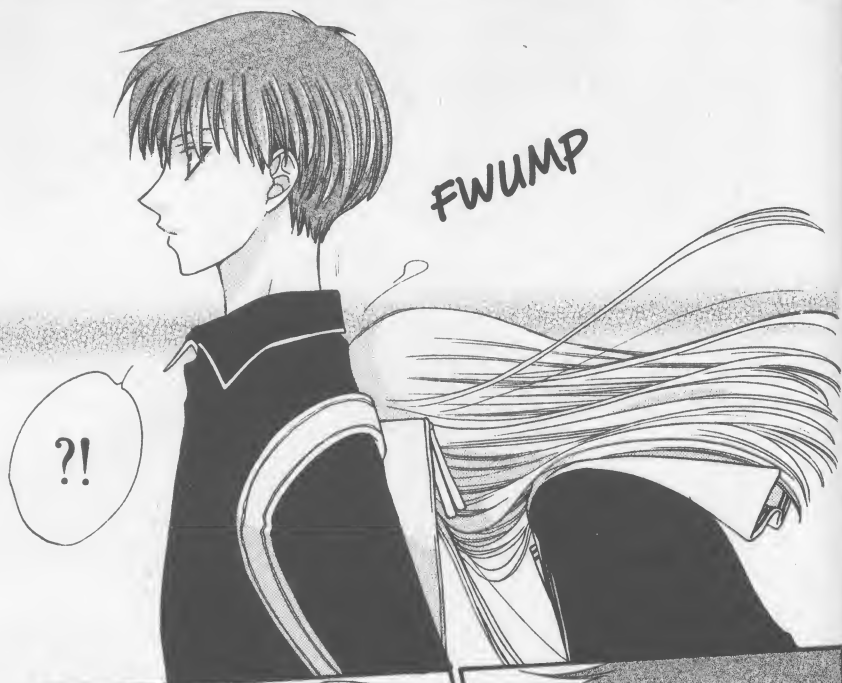
TO THINK  
I GOT  
A RED  
MARK.



SOME-  
HOW...

...I'VE  
BECOME  
EXTREMELY  
DEPRESSED.





YOU KNOW,  
YOU'LL END  
UP WITH A  
FEVER IF YOU  
KEEP THAT...

...UP...

slump

SHEESH...

YOU'RE  
HOPELESS...

oof





YOU'RE ALWAYS  
SO WORRIED  
ABOUT OTHER  
PEOPLE'S COLDS,  
SO WHY DON'T  
YOU CARE ABOUT  
YOUR OWN?!

B-BUT  
I HAVE  
WORK  
TODAY...

TOHRU-  
KUN,  
TOHRU-  
KUN.

I HAVEN'T  
BOUGHT THE  
INGREDIENTS  
FOR DINNER...

I'M ALL  
RIGHT...

AS SOON AS  
I TAKE SOME  
MEDICINE, I'LL  
RECOVER...

JUST  
GO TO  
SLEEP!

YOU JUST  
GET REST.

EH? B-  
BUT...

TO-H-RU-  
KUN?

WE'LL  
TAKE CARE  
OF  
EVERY-  
THING  
ELSE.


THE ONLY  
THING YOU  
HAVE TO  
WORRY ABOUT  
TODAY IS  
GETTING  
SOME SHUT-  
EYE.



\*Tahru's polite, even when she sighs!







I'll try  
my best  
to clean  
Tohru's  
share!!

Where  
does this  
kid come  
from?

Well,  
He is  
adorable.

Whatever  
He's so  
cute.

SO  
TODAY...

...I'LL BE  
WORKING IN  
HER PLACE!

EH?!

THIS CAN'T BE.  
SURELY MY  
EYES DECEIVE  
ME! KYO-KUN,  
WHAT CAN YOU  
POSSIBLY BE  
DOING?

CAN'T  
YOU TELL  
FROM  
LOOKING?

simmer  
simmer

You  
got a  
problem  
?!  
!!

W  
H  
A  
T  
?!

SO...  
IS THIS FOR  
TOHRU-KUN?

YOU CAN'T  
EXPECT A  
SICK PERSON  
TO COOK FOR  
HERSELF.

simmer  
simmer

Medley soup

BUT I  
DIDN'T SAY  
ANYTHING.

BY THE  
WAY, WHAT  
ARE WE  
GOING TO  
EAT?

simmer simmer simmer

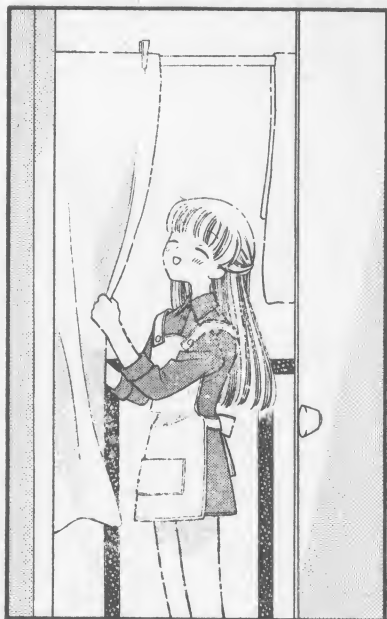
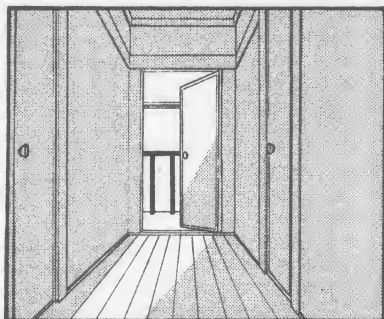
IF YOU  
BREAK MY  
HOUSE, I'LL  
CHARGE  
YOU FOR  
REPAIRS!

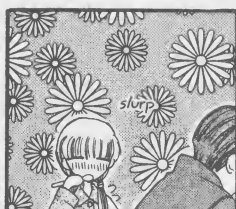
Charge,  
charge!

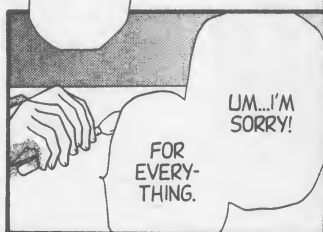
Stomp  
Stomp  
Stomp  
Stomp  
Stomp

TAKEOUT,  
WHAT  
ELSE?!

AND WHY  
DO I HAVE  
TO DO THIS,  
ANYWAY?!













...LEVEL-  
HEADED...  
SOMEONE  
PEOPLE CAN  
DEPEND ON!

I FAILED  
YUKI-KUN,  
TOO.

...TO  
BE...

AND NOW  
I EVEN  
CAUGHT  
A COLD.

I-I WANT  
TO BE...

YOU CAN MAKE  
UP FOR GETTING  
AS MANY RED  
MARKS AS YOU  
WANT WITH  
MAKEUP TESTS.

YOU CAN  
OVERWORK  
HIM UNTIL  
HE DIES.

Do us  
all a  
favor!

AND  
WHO CARES  
ABOUT THAT  
DAMN YUKI?

ARE YOU  
DONE?

I'M DONE...

I'LL GO  
CRAZY.

IF YOU  
DON'T, I'LL...

IT'S NOT COOL  
MAKING YOUR-  
SELF SICK FROM  
WORRYING.

JUST GET OVER  
IT SO YOU CAN  
WANDER AROUND  
THE HOUSE WITH  
THAT IDIOTIC  
EXPRESSION LIKE  
YOU ALWAYS DO.

I'LL...

I-  
idiotic?  
?

...I CAN AT  
LEAST MAKE  
YOU FOOD.

...IF IT'LL  
MAKE IT SO  
YOU CAN  
WANDER  
AROUND  
AGAIN...

SO...



...ABOUT  
ALL THAT  
CRAP.

SO...

DON'T  
WORRY...



...HE'S TRYING...

...TO CHEER ME UP!

IT REALLY IS DELICIOUS.

THIS...



Y-YES!

Hey!

THIS MEANS...

EAT! NOW!  
YOUR FEVER'S  
NEVER GONNA  
GO DOWN!



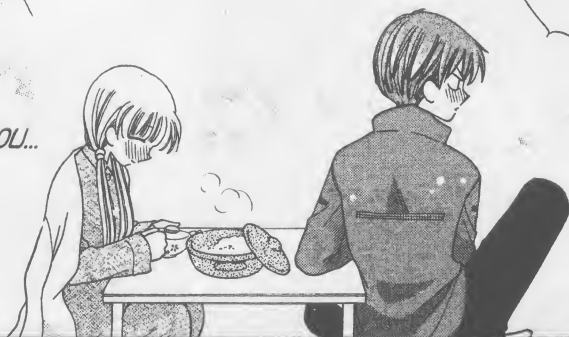
THERE'S NO WAY THAT TASTES GOOD.

NOT AT ALL, COMPARED TO...

...YOUR COOKING.



THANK YOU...



THANK YOU...

...KYO-KUN.

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT. IT  
DOESN'T HURT  
AT ALL.

BUT SHII-  
CHAN WAS  
SAYING IT  
HURTS! HE  
SAID IT HURT  
A WHOLE  
LOT!!

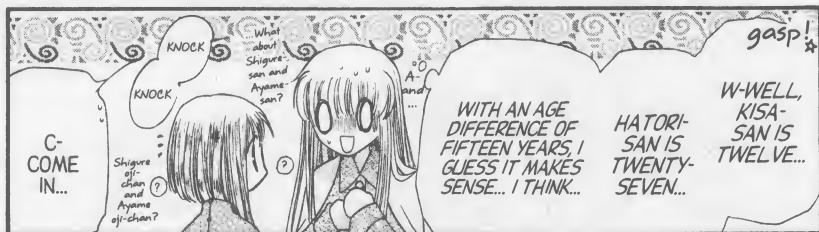
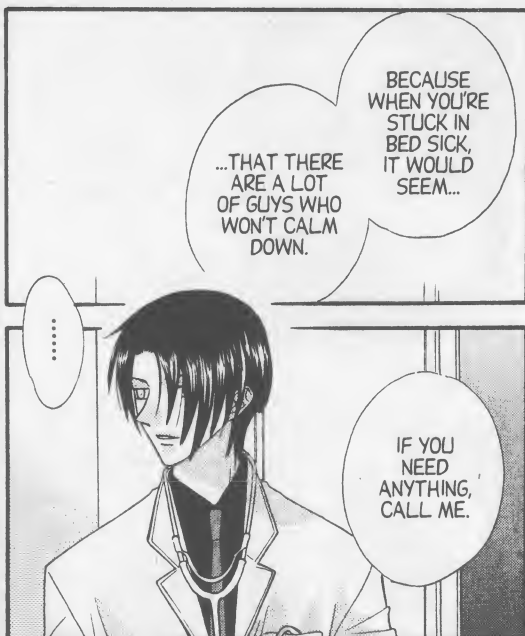
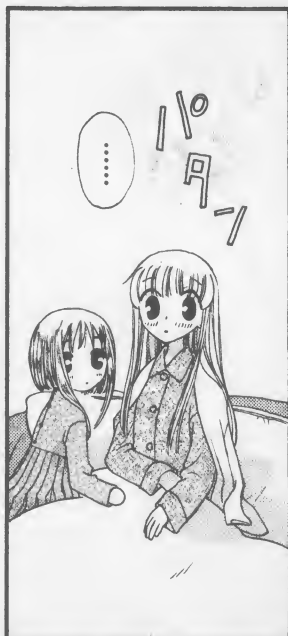
HE SAID HE  
KEPT GETTING  
THE WRONG  
PLACE!!

I DID  
THAT ON  
PURPOSE.

DON'T GET  
IT WRONG,  
HAR!!

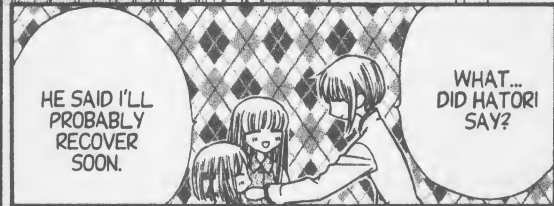
IF TOHRU  
STARTS  
TO HURT,  
STOP, OKAY!





\*oji= uncle. Usually reserved for middle-aged men and not someone in their twenties.





WANTING TO GET  
BETTER...

HELL  
NO,  
RUNT.  
Shut up!  
Go away,  
kid!

What,  
what is  
that,  
Kyo?  
Are you  
training  
to be a  
bride?!

...NOT FOR  
MYSELF...

...BUT FOR  
OTHER  
PEOPLE...

...IS A  
WONDERFUL  
FEELING.

She might  
make some-  
thing for  
you to thank  
you!

...  
Huh?

Haa-san,  
what would  
you like to eat  
of Toku-  
kun's home  
cooking?

MY  
HAPPINESS  
COMES  
FROM...

...THE  
KINDNESS OF  
EVERYONE  
AROUND ME.



To be continued in volume 6...

Next time in...

# Fruits Basket



6

Natsuki Takaya

## Secrets & Lies...

It's been raining for days on end and Tohru can't help worrying about Kyo's crankiness. On a particularly soggy day at the Sohma household, out of the rain steps Kyo's master! It is time for the Cat to learn the truth!! The drama is almost too much to bear in the 6th volume of the ever-popular Fruits Basket.

**Fruits Basket Volume 6**  
Available December 2004

## Interview with Takaya-sensei

### Part 8

**22) Can members of the *juunishi* (12 zodiac animals) only be born if a close relative (parent/sibling/step-parent, etc...) is also one of the *juunishi*? Can "outside" Sohma members give birth to *juunishi* children, or only "inside" Sohmas?**

Being directly related to another *juunishi* and being "inside" or "outside" aren't factors in when a new *juunishi* is born. It's all a matter of timing. Basically, it's random. Right now all of the *juunishi* members are pretty close in age, but in the history of the Sohma family, this is unusual.

**23) Will Yuki's and Ayame's parents be making an appearance?**

At this time, they are scheduled to show up.

**24) Do any of the characters in *Fruits Basket* participate in school clubs?**

Hmm... Now that I think about it, I guess there isn't anyone who does club activities... I guess none of them have enough of an interest in such activities to get involved. Some of them do take extracurricular lessons, though. Like Kyo. Momiji takes lessons, too... But don't ask me to draw it! It's hard enough for me to tell the stories I'm already telling without getting into *that*!

**25) It's been established that Kyo-kun hates onions, leeks and miso, but why these three things?**

He doesn't like the taste of onions. He hates the smell of leeks. And like many kids, he dislikes miso and other stinky bean curd products.



**26) Do Yuki-kun and other characters have likes and dislikes?**

Oh, they have their personal preferences, all right. I've been thinking how it'd be nice to write about such things. (But this is still pending...)

**27) How are the sales of Shigure's novels? Is he considered a fairly popular writer?**

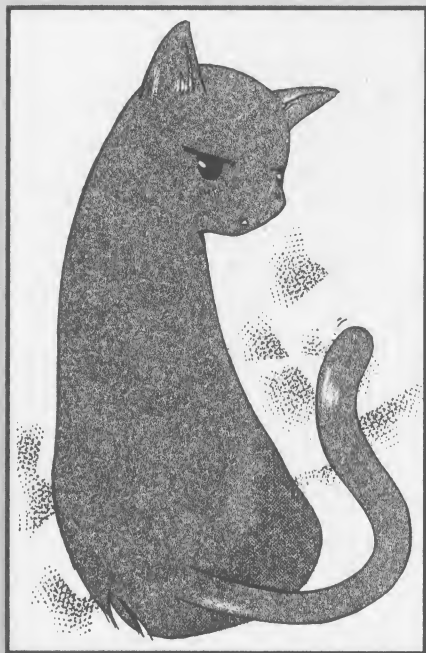
At the moment, the books he wrote under the name "Karitani Noa" (Like *Summer-Colored Sigh*) seems to be the most popular. Incidentally, that's not the only pen name Shigure uses. Shigure will do whatever he can to not lose to Ayame. Seems like he's fairly popular.

**FRUITS BASKET- Original Drama CD**

**28) The "Fruits Basket" CD has an original story, but why did you feature a crazy subject like nagashi soumen? (Note-see the omake comic in vol. 4!)**

Well, it's pretty much because I was thinking to myself how I'd never actually had any nagashi soumen. I certainly made things difficult for myself by making a story about that, huh?

**29) Did you also write the short, comedy story that's included in the interval of the main story?**



Yup. It was because I was practically itching to make the CD more fun and laughable. I feel that things that are fun make people happy.

**30) In that short story, what on earth was the thing that Kagura made?**

Obviously a cat backpack! She has such marvelous workmanship that she's a celebrity in her neighborhood... possibly. (laugh)

**31) Any last messages for your fans?**

Thank you so very much for reading! As the Fruits Basket characters keep grabbing for each other, laughing and crying, let's keep walking down the road of life. Please keep watching over me.

These three panels are early drafts for Takaya-sensei's previous work, *Tubasa O Motsu Mono (Those With Wings)*. You can see how much the designs influenced her newest work, the ever-popular *Fruits Basket*!





# Year of the Boar: Going Whole Hog



Another interesting point to bring up about Boars is that women born in this year tend to be neat freaks—especially where their home is concerned. You would be hard pressed to find a speck of dirt or dust anywhere in sight. Male Boars on the other hand will never be able to shake the troublesome stigma that all they would rather do is wallow in the mud all day.

Even so, Boars of both sexes have a genuine thirst for knowledge and are typically well-informed individuals. They are hard working and have almost too much energy at times. Boars are often taken advantage of because they can never say “no” when asked for help. Sadly, this tends to lead them into money problems at some point or another in their life. And while Boars do manage to find a way to crawl out of their rut, they can never quite seem to keep themselves out of it due to their inability to see the sky for the trees.

## Celebrity Boars:

Christina Applegate  
Tom Arnold  
David Boreanaz  
Val Kilmer  
Stephen King  
Winona Ryder  
Miss Piggy

## Boar

**Years:** 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031, 2043

**Positive Qualities:** reliable, sincere, tolerant, caring, industrious, persistent, brave

**Negative Qualities:** shy, one-track mind, short tempered, headstrong

**Suitable Jobs:** teacher, nurse, researcher

**Compatible With:** Rabbits, Sheep, Tiger (and Cats!)

**Must Avoid:** Snake, Monkey, other Boars

**Ruling Hours:** 9 PM to 11 PM

**Season:** Fall

**Ruling Month:** November

**Sign Direction:** North-Northwest

**Fixed Element:** Water

**Corresponding Western Sign:** Scorpio

The Boar is the last of the twelve great animals of the Zodiac. While it can generally be assumed that the Boar was off feeding its face for most of the great race, one lesser-known version of the fable centers on the animals being asked to tell why they deserved to reside at the top of the Zodiac. While the Bull said it helped the farmer plow the fields and the Snake talked about how smart it was, all the boar could come up with was that the meat on its bones tasted good to eat. Sure this might not sound like a very positive thing to say, but at least the Boar was being honest.

Boars are born with an inner strength that few others can match. Offsetting the Boar's bravery is their horribly short temper that makes it all too easy for a Boar to fly into a rage at the slightest provocation. Luckily, Boars generally dislike having arguments and seldom harbor any long-term grudges against anyone that has the unfortunate luck of crossing them. For anyone lucky enough to befriend a Boar though, they are often greatly rewarded as Boars are extremely loyal and prefer to have a smaller, more close knit group of friends that are with them a lifetime.

\* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. Example: 1983 actually starts on February 13, so anyone born between January 1 and February 12 is still a Dog.